Ireland bars RP kids from joining Special Olympics

Story below, Col. 1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, May 17, 2003 ★★ 88 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 158 P15
website: www.inq7.net

By Jove, 112 moons, and counting

PROBLEMA LANG KUNG ANO IPA-PANGALAN SA MGA ITO!!!

PARIS—Astronomers say they have detected nearly two dozen more satellites orbiting Jupiter, bringing the number of moons encircling the Solar System's greatest planet to an astonishing 112. The 23 newcomers are

BY JOVE/ A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Spurs oust Lakers**
  SPORTS/A28
- **US accused of smear campaign vs France**
  WORLD/A14
- **Danding: No trade war with Lucio Tan**
  NEWS/A4

Bush prepares star welcome for GMA

MR. AND MRS. DIOSDADO IGNACIO MACAPAGAL ARROYO

EDWIN BACASMAS

Dato Arroyo, the youngest child of President Macapagal and Mr. Mike Arroyo, emerges from the Santuario de San Antonio on Friday afternoon with his bride Maria Victoria Celina "Kakai" Manotok after their wedding rites markedly devoid of media frenzy.

She could bring home $2B in deals, aid, grants

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, who leaves tonight for a state visit to the United States, will be getting the star treatment in Washington as a leading member of the "coalition of the willing."

The President will be the latest national leader in the US-led coalition to visit American President George W. Bush since the war in Iraq. But unlike Britain's Tony Blair, Australia's John Howard and Spain's Jose Maria Aznar—all of whom spent time with Bush at his Texas ranch—Ms Macapagal will be feted with a state dinner Monday in Washington, only the third that Bush has hosted since taking his oath of office in January 2001.

It is a clear pat on the back for one of America's staunchest allies. Ms Macapagal was the first world leader to call Bush to express sympathy after the Sept. 11 attacks, and Washington is demonstrating an ongoing commitment to help her fight homegrown terrorism.

Courting aid and investment is a top priority for Ms Macapagal. Some analysts have suggested she could land as much as $2 billion in business deals, military assistance and other grants.

The President begins her nine-day visit with a solemn Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels with the Filipino-American community.

Upon her arrival at the Los Angeles International Airport at 7:45 p.m. Saturday (Los Angeles time), the President will head straight for the Cathedral. She will be the first foreign head of state to be received by Roger Cardinal Mahoney, the influential Archbishop of Los Angeles, since the completion of the Cathedral in September 2002.

The President will join Mahoney, local government officials and Fil-Am VIPs in a

BUSH/ A19

US troops still going to Sulu, says Reyes

By Carlito Pablo

US TROOPS will still be deployed in Sulu despite possible new terrorist threats by the Abu Sayyaf, the defense department said yesterday.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Mindanao edition of the Balikatan military exercises, the annual Philippine-US training program, will proceed in spite of a US Department of State warning of possible new terror attacks by the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

"The Balikatan will go through and we are ready for those kinds of threats," Reyes said.

The likely launch date, according to the head of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), will either be the end of June or middle of July.

Secretary Silvestre Afable, PMS head, said in a press briefing after a meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security (Cocis) that a "consensus" on the timetable has been reached. Afable also said an agreement on the terms of reference that will govern the participation of American troops had already "gelled."

Reyes described the Abu Sayyaf threat as "old hat," and assured the public that the military was taking steps to quash the group.

The US state department warned on Wednesday that threats to US interests were present in Southeast Asia and identified the Abu Sayyaf as a possible source of attacks.

"The (group) remains a security threat to areas in (the Malaysian state of) Sabah, which is close to the southern Philippines," the state department said.

US / A6

BAD BLOOD

Angara not backing Lacson because of Zamora brothers

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine O. Avendano

THE COMPANY he keeps may cost Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson the nomination of his party, the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, in the 2004 presidential election.

Angara, who is LDP president, explained to the INQUIRER why he was asking his party mates to support tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as LDP standard-bearer. He said Cojuangco, chair of the San Miguel Corp. and founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, could lead a "grand coalition" that would erase the line between the administration and the opposition and win in 2004.

"I have nothing against Ping but I have definitely something against some of his principal backers. You keep company like that, there's something wrong with your judgment," Angara said without naming names.

Sources close to Angara said the supposedly questionable company Lacson was keeping included banker and mining magnate Manuel Zamora and his brother, San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, a former executive secretary of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

ANGARA/ A18

Ireland bars RP kids from Special Olympics

By Tessa Salazar

"IT'S LIKE telling your children 'We're going to the movies,' then all of a sudden telling them 'We're just staying home.'"

This was how Special Olympics Philippines national executive director Alex Pabst described the impact of Ireland's decision to ask child athletes with learning disabilities from SARS-infected countries to stay away from next month's Special Olympics there for fear of infection.

Towns and villages across Ireland have been gearing up to host the 7,000 athletes, 3,000 coaches and 28,000 delegates to the games for athletes with learning disabilities, which will take place north and south of the Irish border. It is the world's largest sporting event this year.

Pabst said it will be very painful to explain the situation to the Special Olympics Philippines athletes because they had been training so hard and looking forward to the experience.

Wire agencies reported yesterday that delegations from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines had been asked by the Irish government not to send athletes to the Special Olympics.

Health Minister Micheal Martin told reporters the decision was on the advice of a group of experts set up after the outbreak of the deadly flu-like virus.

"It would be wrong to ignore their advice on medical knowledge," he said.

Growing public concern has already led one town council to pull out of plans to host the team from Hong Kong.

Martin said the communal nature of the games over a period of weeks made them unique and "merited the utmost caution."

But the Special Olympics organizing committee said the request was unnecessary and amounted to an effective ban.

IRELAND/ A18

Asia to keep borders open despite SARS

By Tonette Orejas and Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Aviation leaders and airport officials in Asia yesterday adopted a resolution pledging that passengers suspected of being afflicted with SARS would not be denied entry.

Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority, told reporters this policy was the "very significant, most important" agreement reached at the end of the Asean aviation forum on the prevention and containment of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The resolution, to be implemented in all Asian airports, states that airport authorities will admit passengers suspected of being SARS patients and ensure that they would receive "appropriate medical treatment."

"This means that there will be no deportation [to their countries of origin] of passengers suspected to have SARS," Manda said. "Instead, the patients will be immediately brought to a hospital in the country of arrival."

The resolution—finalized after late evening discussions on Thursday—was "surprisingly" passed without resistance,

ASIA/ A18

The Dean is dead; long live the legend

By Alcuin Papa and Armin Adina
PDI Research

THE DEAN is dead. Long live the legend.

Armando J. Malay, educator, activist for press freedom and human rights and journalist for over six decades passed away on Thursday night. He was 89 years old.

Last Tuesday, Malay was brought unconscious to the Capitol Medical Center in Quezon City after apparently suffering a stroke, according to his son-in-law Bayan Sectoral Rep. Satur Ocampo.

He is survived by children Armando "Buddy" Jr., Carolina "Bobbie" Ocampo

THE DEAN/ A20

JOAN BONDOC

THE PILLAR of journalism, an omniscient, fondly familiar presence in the parliament of the streets fighting for the restoration of freedoms during the Marcos martial rule.

Students' work is Malay's monument

By Chelo Banal-Formoso
Lifestyle Editor

DEAN Armando Malay does not need to be remembered with a monument, or a hall or a street named after him. He is memorialized every day in the work of his former students who are now leading media practitioners.

At the University of the Philippines where Dean Malay taught news writing from 1954 to the early 1970s, he was a towering figure literally and figuratively, treating his students to stuff that he had already mastered as a reporter, editor and columnist in various newspapers.

Malay was of the school that believed in giving readers the story's who, what, where, when and why in the lead paragraph. Don't bury the important details in the last paragraphs, he would caution,

HIS STUDENTS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/05/17/03

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Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

EU denies Joma access to assets

LUXEMBOURG—A European Union judge has refused to unfreeze the assets of Jose Ma. Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines who claimed he was wrongly included on a European Union terrorist list.

The judge in the Court of First Instance, the second-highest court in the EU, ruled that Sison did not urgently need his assets to be unfrozen.

"The president of the (court) has dismissed an action for interim relief aimed at the unfreezing of funds of a person included on the community's list of suspected terrorists," a court statement read.

Sison, who has two months to appeal the court judgment, accused the EU of violating his human rights under pressure from Washington and Manila.

Reached by the INQUIRER, Sison said recent United Nations decisions were actually in his favor.

"Latest decisions of the high and mighty, such as UN Security Council Resolution 1452 of 20 December 2002 and the European Council Resolution 561 of 27 March 2003, are in my favor. They prohibit the freezing of moneys for food, clothing, medicine, medical care, health insurance, rent, professional fees, etc.," Sison said.

He added: "But the Dutch government might still try some stonewalling tricks to deprive me of my basic necessities, while preventing me from getting a job in violation of the protection provided by Article 3, the right to family union (Article 8), the right to property (Article 1 of Protocol 1) and right to due process (Article 6)—all of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms."

Benefits sought

Sison said during the hearing on March 26 that it was already made clear by his Belgian counsel, Jan Fermon, by the judge and the representatives of the European Council and European Commission, "that the restoration of benefits is within the competence of the Dutch authorities. Indeed, individual member states are responsible accordingly."

"Thus, my Dutch lawyers have been pursuing the restoration of benefits and complaining against the violation of my rights in the Netherlands," he said.

But the new judgment simply rejected Sison's application to release his assets.

"The president recalled that, for an application for interim measures to be granted, the applicant must show that such measures are required as a matter of urgency," said the court statement.

But it noted that Sison could apply to Dutch authorities to receive funding to meet his "basic needs."

"As the condition of urgency is not satisfied, the president has dismissed the application for interim relief," it said.

Sison said he has also filed a case before the district court of Utrecht.

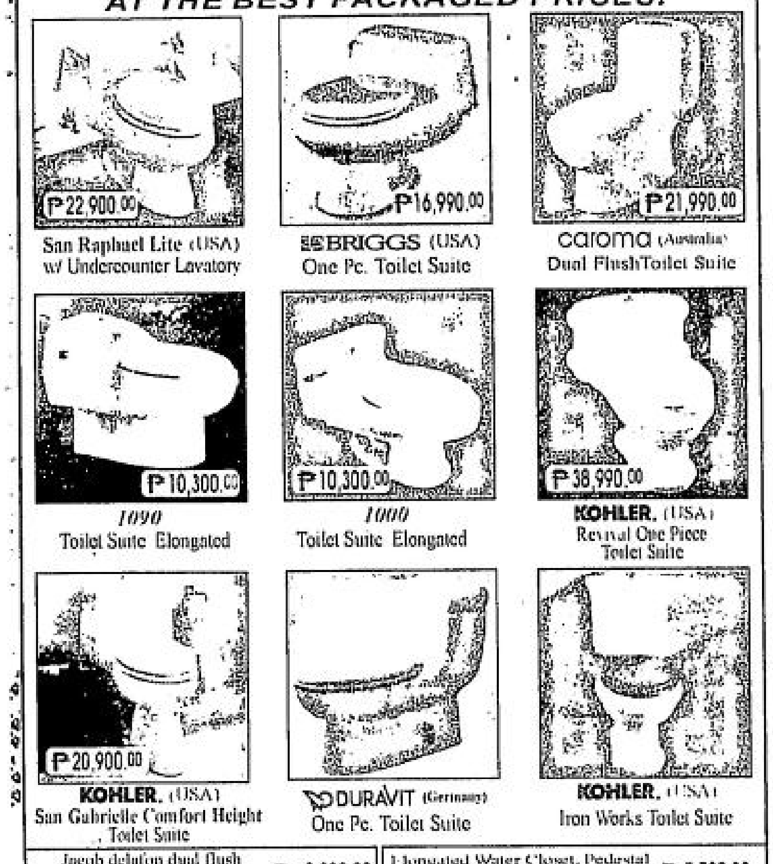
Under a 2001 EU ruling, any person named on the list of suspected terrorists—which includes people involved in suspected terrorist activities or controlled by suspected terrorists—must have their assets frozen.

Terrorist list

In December 2002, Sison's' name was added to the list, along with the New People's Army. Dutch authorities immediately froze Sison's assets and suspended welfare payments to him.

At the start of this year, Sison, who won refugee status in the Netherlands in 1992, applied to the Luxembourg court to have his name removed from the list.

A final judgment on such cases takes 21 months on average, according to a court official. *AFP, Reuters, with a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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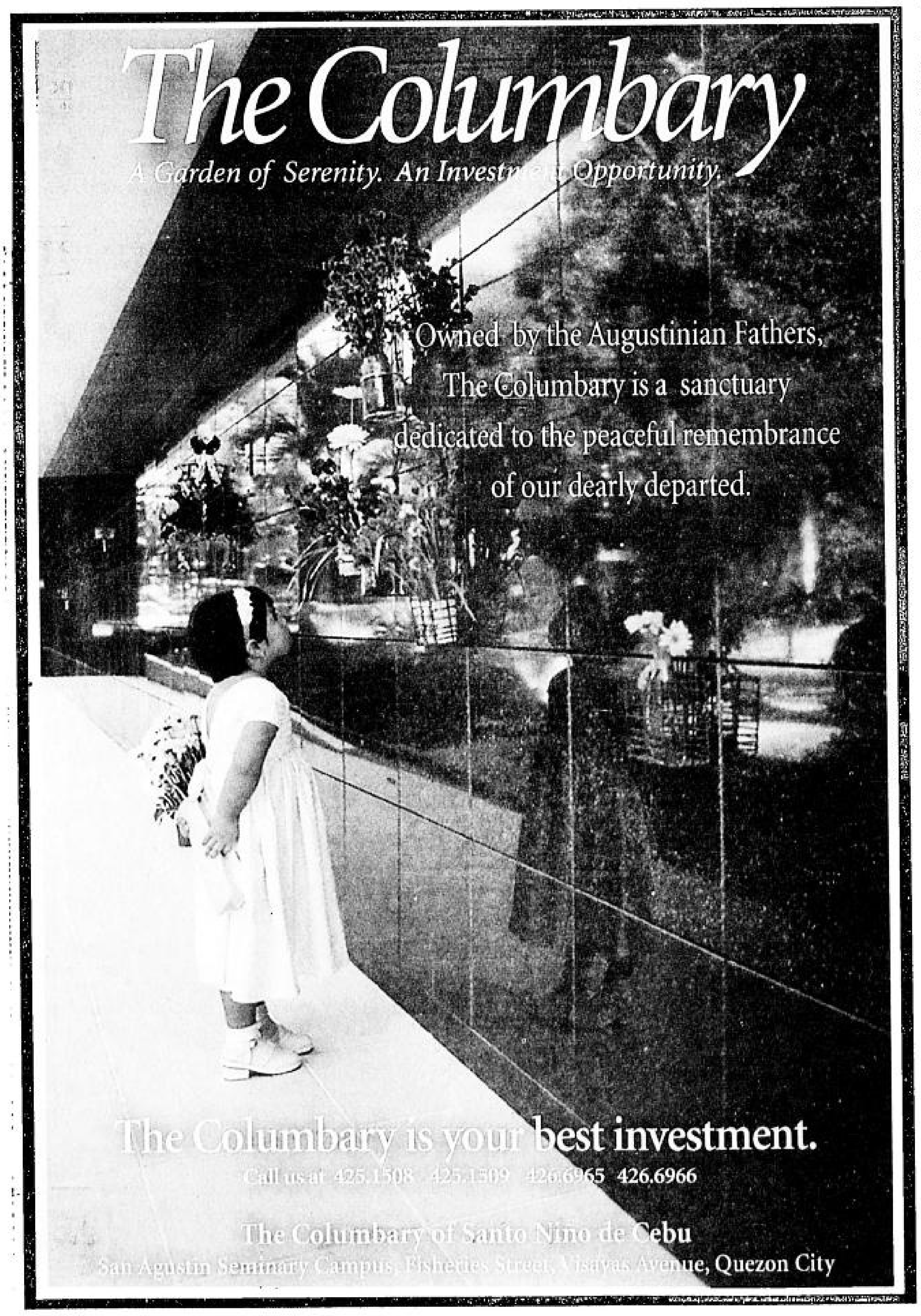

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Military says Church using EU funds to support rebels

BUTUAN CITY—Military officials have claimed that part of the humanitarian and cultural funds donated by the European Union for the Caraga region was being used by a Catholic Church group to support the New People's Army.

Col. Juanito Cabayao, commander of the Army's 402nd Infantry Brigade, made the claim during the visit of ambassadors from EU member-countries here on Wednesday.

The visit was the first for European ambassadors since the creation of the EU.

They reviewed the implementation of grassroots programs funded by the EU in the poverty-stricken Caraga region.

Cabayao said the Religious of the Good Sheperd (RGS), a recipient of EU aid based in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, was trying to oppose the military's anti-insurgency drive.

He accused Sister Mary John Dumaog, RGS program director, of receiving funds supposedly for cultural and literacy projects in the community, but which were used to directly or indirectly fund anti-government activities.

"She uses the money for propaganda (materials) and we fear (she would use) the money to buy war materiel (for the NPA)," Cabayao told the INQUIRER.

Dumaog denied Cabayao's allegations, saying she was only intent on preserving the cultural identity of the Banwaons and the Manobos.

"I don't have a grudge (against) those who have negative (things to say) against me," she told a local television station.

Dumaog said RGS was able to build schools, clinics, water wells and communal farms on a 10-hectare land in Barangay Balit in San Luis town using the funds her group received from the EU.

Cabayao said Dumaog, who started her work in the rebel-influenced town of San Luis in 1979, had long been identified as a ranking Communist Party member based on accounts of former rebels.

"It's also public knowledge that she always negotiates for the release of minor NPA captives," he said.

Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti said the military's allegations were farfetched because the EU follows strict auditing and accounting procedures. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Hunt on for Pinoy would-be bomber

POLICE officials said yesterday they were looking for a returned overseas Filipino worker who claimed that he had been offered money in Saudi Arabia to bomb one of the residential compounds there where 34 people died earlier this week.

The man, who refused to be identified, told radio station dzMM yesterday that while working as a technician in one of the compounds that were attacked Monday, he was befriended by Arab-looking men who offered him a large sum of money in exchange to plant a bomb there.

He said he returned to the Philippines in April for fear of his life.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, police intelligence chief, said he instructed his staff to look for the man.

Anthony Taberna, one of the anchors who interviewed the overseas Filipino worker, said the man reported that he last met with the unidentified Arab men in March. The man said he got scared and decided to go home even before his contract was finished, Taberna said.

"Last October, four men approached me and tried to brainwash me against my American co-workers," a dzMM-affiliated news Web site quoted the man as saying.

The man said he refused the offer. He said the Arabs wanted him to plant a bomb in a portion of the compound close to the roadside, where housing facilities assigned mostly to families were located. He did not name the compound, and it wasn't clear which of the three bombed sites he was referring to.

The man said he knew at least one of the three Filipinos who died in the bombings. Also killed were eight Americans and nine Saudis believed to have been the bombers.

The man told the radio station he usually wore a uniform used by workers in the compound, which may have been why he was approached.

He also told dzMM he would be able to identify the Arab men if he saw their pictures.

Taberna said the man indicated he was willing to talk to authorities if they could guarantee safety for him and his family. *AP*

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Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓	3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓	41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
Co-trimoxazole tab (TM-160mg SMZ-800mg)	✓	2.30	24.00	21.70/tab
Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓	2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓	25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
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Palace closer to tagging MILF a terrorist group

By Carlito Pablo and Martin Marfil

MALACAÑANG has been pushed closer toward branding the Moro Islamic Liberation Front a terrorist group following the toppling of electric power lines allegedly by the secessionist rebels in Sultan Kudarat on Wednesday.

In a statement titled "MILF showed true terrorist colors in past three months" it released yesterday, Malacañang said events in the last three months and documents captured from the MILF main camp in the Buliok Complex last February "tend to belie the rebel group's claims that it is not allied with any of the terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiya or al-Qaida."

The Macapagal administration has given the MILF until June 1 to renounce its ties with terrorist groups, stop its offensives and comply with other conditions if it wants to avoid being tagged a terrorist organization and resume peace talks with the government.

The conditions include the handing over of MILF men involved in the bombings in Davao City and Koronadal, North Cotabato, and the armed raid in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

70 deaths

The Palace statement said that MILF-initiated armed encounters, raids and bombings had caused the deaths of 70 civilians and the wounding of 222 others.

It also noted that the MILF has so far destroyed 54 power transmission towers of the National Power Corp.

"While the government has been consistent in its policy of keeping its doors open to the peace process, the MILF has been clandestinely building up its armed capability and influence in its areas of operation, as well as conniving with criminal elements in kidnapping operations," Malacañang said.

It said that recovered documents "confirmed a standing plan by the MILF to conduct bombing operations."

Malacañang added, "The group has also recruited minors as combatants, signed a deal to buy military hardware from a foreign source, and generated substantial funds from foreign and local supporters."

Anticipating that the June 1 deadline would lapse without any positive action from the MILF, the military yesterday said it would employ more selective operations against the group rather than engage it in an "all-out war" similar to that launched in 2000 and the offensive that took Buliok complex in February.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said the approach acknowledged the "painful lessons of the past" when military operations led to mass evacuations, civilian casualties and damage to properties.

"I don't think the government has any intention of waging an all-out war considering the painful lessons derived from the past. Operations would be, if ever launched, selective, pinpointed and very deliberate," Garcia said. *With Charlie C. Senase and Edwin O. Fernandez, Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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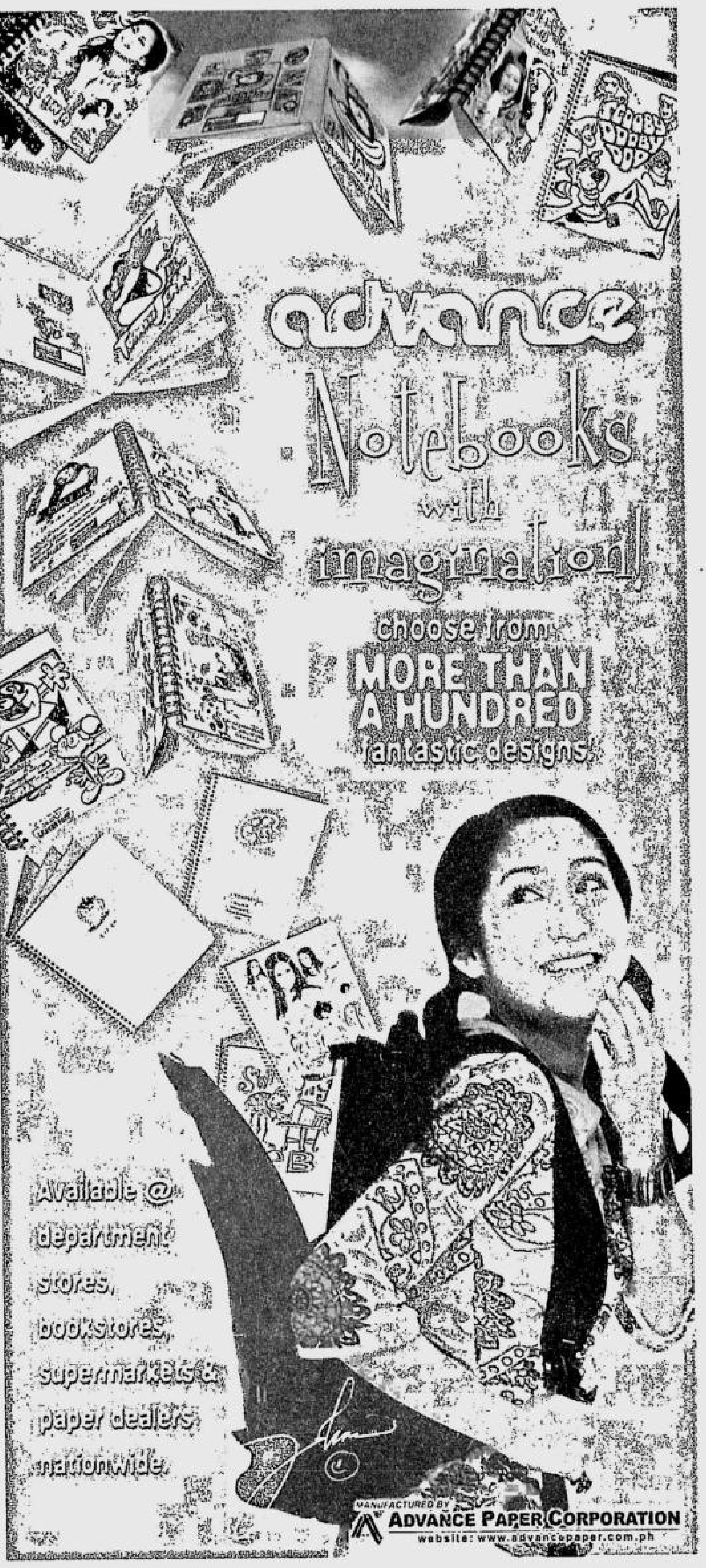
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Get over purges of '80s, Reds urge former comrades

LUCENA CITY—Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal chided former cadres of the New People's Army who became victims of the bloody purges of the 1980s, saying the "perennial recollection" of the incidents only serves the interests of the enemies of the revolution.

Rosal, in a cellular phone interview yesterday, said that as far the CPP was concerned, the incident is closed.

He said all party members who were found responsible for the killings have been meted out punishments commensurate to their involvement.

"Most of them underwent the rectification process, some of them left the movement and are now part of the military network of NPA cadres-turned-traitors to the revolution," he said.

"So what's the use of constantly resurrecting the issue? These were all the work of counterrevolutionaries masquerading as advocates of truth and justice for the sake of the purge victims," Rosal said.

He said most of the victims have returned to the revolutionary movement and were "working again."

Last week, a group of survivors and relatives of purge victims gathered at the University of the Philippines to commemorate the lives and sacrifices of their fallen comrades. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Doronila, Cunanan named to Hall of Fame

THE ROTARY Club of Manila, the oldest Rotary Club in Asia, has named the first inductees to its Journalism Hall of Fame. Philippine Daily Inquirer columnists Amando Doronila and Belinda Olivares-Cunanan were among the five honorees.

Also selected for enshrinement in the Rotary Journalism Hall of Fame were multi-awarded broadcast journalist Jessica Soho of GMA Network, Philippine Star columnist and publisher Maximo Soliven and former press secretary and Star columnist Teodoro Benigno.

Doronila, who writes the column "Analysis," was adjudged Manila Rotary Journalist of the Year in 1967 and Print Journalist of the Year in 1987.

Cunanan, who writes "Political Tidbits," was given a Special Award for Distinguished Print Journalism in 1987 and was Print Journalist of the Year in 1988.

Soliven was named Columnist of the Year in 1969 and was Journalist of the War in 1971. The author of the daily column "By The Way" won the top Rotary journalism citation again in 1990 when he was named Columnist of the Year.

Benigno, who writes "Here's the Score," was first cited as Columnist of the Year by the Manila Rotary Club in 1989. Two years later, he was named Print Journalist of the Year.

Soho, currently acting news director of GMA News and Public Affairs, was cited as TV Journalist of the Year by the Rotary Club of Manila for two consecutive years, 1989 and 1990.

The names of the honorees will be inscribed on a perpetual trophy "extolling the impact of the awardees' work upon the community and the public welfare."

RCM Journalism Awards committee chair, former press secretary Rod T. Reyes, said the five inductees will be formally recognized at the Awards Night on May 29 at the Manila Hotel.

St. Augustine
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Dear Inay,

Eto na po ang inyong stateside na anak!!! Di ba ang ganda ko??? Nagsimula na po kami sa ospital last week. Masaya naman ang trabaho at mababait sila. Naaalala po ba ninyo si Mona, kaklase ko sa St. Augustine? Nandito na rin pala siya, kaya may kaibigan agad ako.

Alam niyo Inay, buti nalang at pinag-tiyagaan po ninyo akong pag-aralin. Nagagamit ko po talaga lahat ng pinag-aralan ko--nagulat nga po sila at napaka-well trained daw namin. Siyempre, St. Augustine eh! Pati nga placement sa trabaho, sila tumulong, di po ba?

Yan po muna ang kuwento. Maaga po ang shift ko ngayon. Pa-kiss kay bunso.

Love,
Sarah =)

P.S. Ngayon, makakabawi naman ako sa inyo. Mag-ipon po ako ng husto. At siyempre, magpapakabait!

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No trade war with Lucio, says Danding

ILOILO CITY—What trade war?

Business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday said there was no looming business battle between the country's top two liquor makers, and by inference between himself and taipan Lucio Tan.

Cojuangco, chair and chief executive officer of San Miguel Corp., belittled reports that its competitor Tanduay Distillers Inc. was set to launch at least seven gin products bearing the Ginebra name to challenge Ginebra San Miguel's supremacy of the local gin market. La Tondeña Distillers Inc., an SMC subsidiary, makes Ginebra San Miguel, while Tanduay is controlled by Tan.

"We already have 95 percent of the total market," Cojuangco told reporters here, by way of belying a trade war.

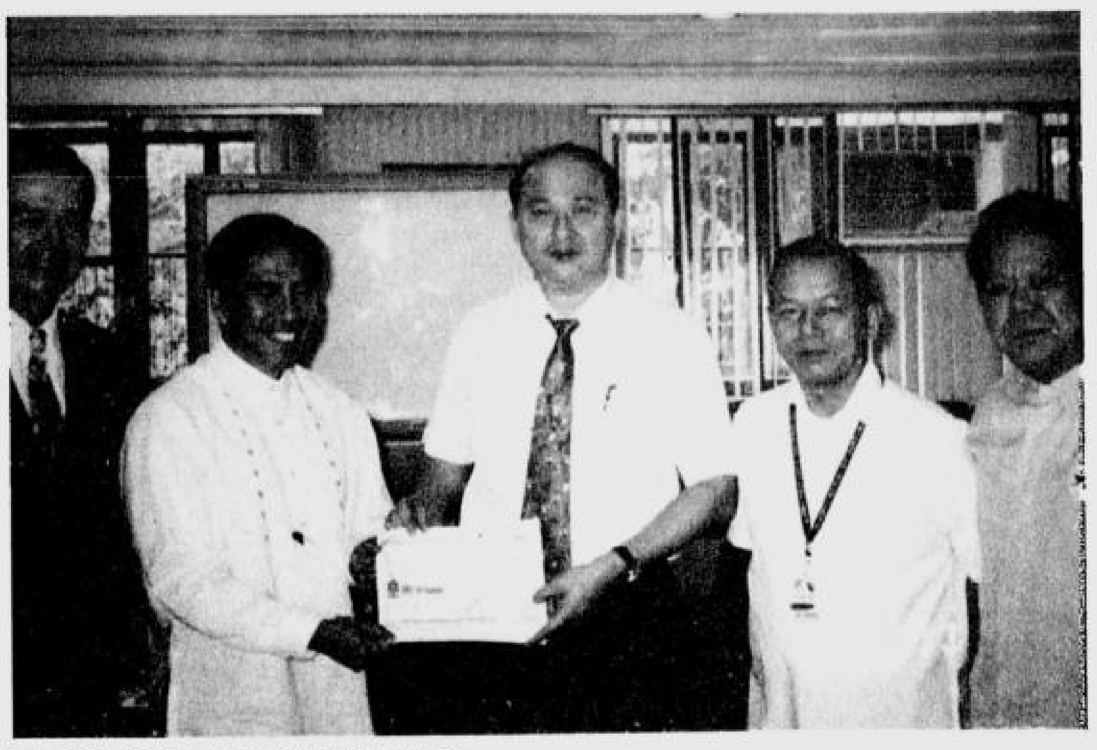
The former ambassador was a guest at the graduation of policemen here who underwent a course on urban counter-terrorism.

Cojuangco said that because of San Miguel's dominance of the local market, it plans to expand to other Asian countries and establish its brands there.

The company has five breweries in the Philippines, one each in Indonesia and Vietnam, and four in China, including Hong Kong, according to the company website.

"We are showing that Filipino products can compete with the rest of the world," Cojuangco said.

Tanduay is reportedly set to launch seven gin products, namely, Ginebra Kapitan, Ginebra Agila, Ginebra Heneral, Ginebra Primero 80, Ginebra Toreador, Ginebra Toro and Ginebra Torrero. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*



TAIWAN HELPS RP FIGHT SARS
Stanley Su, center, president of the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines Inc., hands over a check for P200,000 to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to help in the fight against Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, on the occasion of the chamber's 15th anniversary. Looking on are, from left, Ambassador Benjamin J.Y. Lo of the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office, and Philip Chien and Lin An-Pang, founder and former president, respectively, of the chamber.

Cyprus 1st European country to ban OFWs because of SARS

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE ECONOMIC impact of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome continues to take its toll on overseas Filipino workers as Cyprus banned OFWs from working there.

Cyprus was the first European country to bar the entry of OFWs due to the Philippines' inclusion in the list of SARS-affected countries.

George Anastacio, president of the Cyprus-Philippines Manpower Agencies, expressed the fear Cyprus' move would trigger similar reactions from Britain and Ireland where many Filipinos work.

Anastacio said the Cyprus government has released a letter ordering the ban on foreign workers from the Philippines, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong until September.

A Philippine Overseas Employment Administration statement said Cyprus has ordered its embassy here to stop processing the work visas of Filipinos.

POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz said Lebanon, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have also imposed measures to ensure that OFWs entering their countries were SARS-free.

Malaysia, Lebanon

Malaysia and Lebanon are requiring Filipino workers to submit a certificate from accredited hospitals that they were not suffering from SARS or its symptoms before being allowed to leave the Philippines.

Upon arrival in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, they are required to undergo a 10-day mandatory home quarantine before proceeding to their job sites.

Last year, the Philippines deployed 1,318 OFWs to Cyprus and 1,946 to Lebanon, most of whom were employed as domestic helpers or caregivers, according to POEA records.

Domestically, Transportation Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza has advised all operators of public utility vehicles (PUVs) to take all necessary measures against the spread of SARS in the country.

Transport companies

Mendoza advised road transport companies, particularly those plying provincial routes, to coordinate with the Department of Health in implementing measures against SARS.

Mendoza said the DOTC has alerted all its agencies, particularly airports and seaports, against SARS.

"We should not [be complacent] in this issue, because an outbreak of this dreaded disease will not only affect the country's economy, but will also cost lives," he said.

Department spokesperson Thompson Lantion said the DOTC Action Center has mobilized more personnel on land transport facilities, especially the LRT and MRT lines, to be on the lookout for possible SARS victims so they could be prevented from spreading the disease.

Lantion also urged the public to call the DOTC Action Center Hotline 7890 to report possible SARS cases.

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No such list, narc chief says

By TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) does not have a list of lawmakers who are coddling drug traffickers.

Undersecretary Anselmo Avenido Jr., PDEA director general, said in a radio interview yesterday, "I just want to make it clear that we're not maintaining a watchlist of politicians. We have neither prepared a list nor submitted one to any committee or office."

Pressed further, Avenido insisted: "We're not maintaining such a list."

Several times yesterday, the PDEA chief found himself having to dispute news reports that the agency had a list of lawmakers, including a senator, who were engaged in drug activities or were coddling drug traffickers.

The INQUIRER tried to reach him for comment, to no avail.

ABS-CBN TV had reported on Tuesday that some politicians were involved in drug activities and had sought a reaction from Avenido, who replied that the PDEA had received reports on the drug activities of certain individuals. *With C. Avendaño*

Distraught Strunk to fight extradition, says lawyer

ROD Strunk will fight extradition to the Philippines where he faces murder charges in the killing of his wife, actress Nida Blanca, his American lawyer said Thursday.

Strunk, 63, was apprehended Tuesday in Tracy, California, following a request from the Philippines' Department of Justice, after a warrant for his arrest was issued by a Philippine court in February.

Strunk is being held at the nearby Sacramento county jail. His lawyer, Jeffrey Kravitz, said a judge will hear a complaint on Friday that Strunk doesn't have access to his medication for blood pressure, diabetes and depression.

"He's completely distraught," Kravitz said of his client. "His life has been turned upside down by this crime and these accusations."

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the Philippine government will file an extradition request within 60 days.

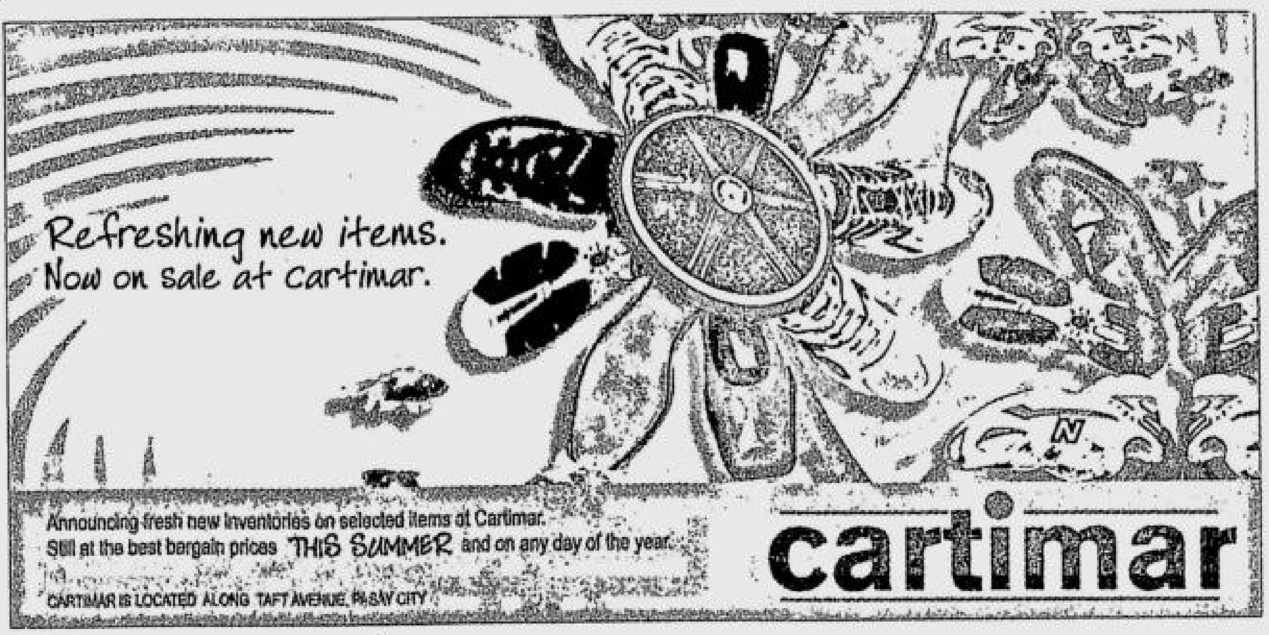
Prosecutors accused Strunk of masterminding his wife's murder in November 2001. Codefendant Philip Medel is already in custody.

Medel had said Strunk hired him to kill Blanca but he later recanted his statement, claiming police had tortured him into confessing.

Prosecutors, however, said Medel's statement could still be used. Strunk has denied Medel's claims and any involvement in Blanca's murder. He left for California in January 2001 after Medel recanted.

"He had no motive to be involved in this case," Kravitz said. "He gained nothing by her death. He can't inherit her property because he's an American citizen."

Kravitz said he will ask a judge next week to set bail for Strunk. He also said he will fight extradition. A hearing will likely take place in July, he said. *AP*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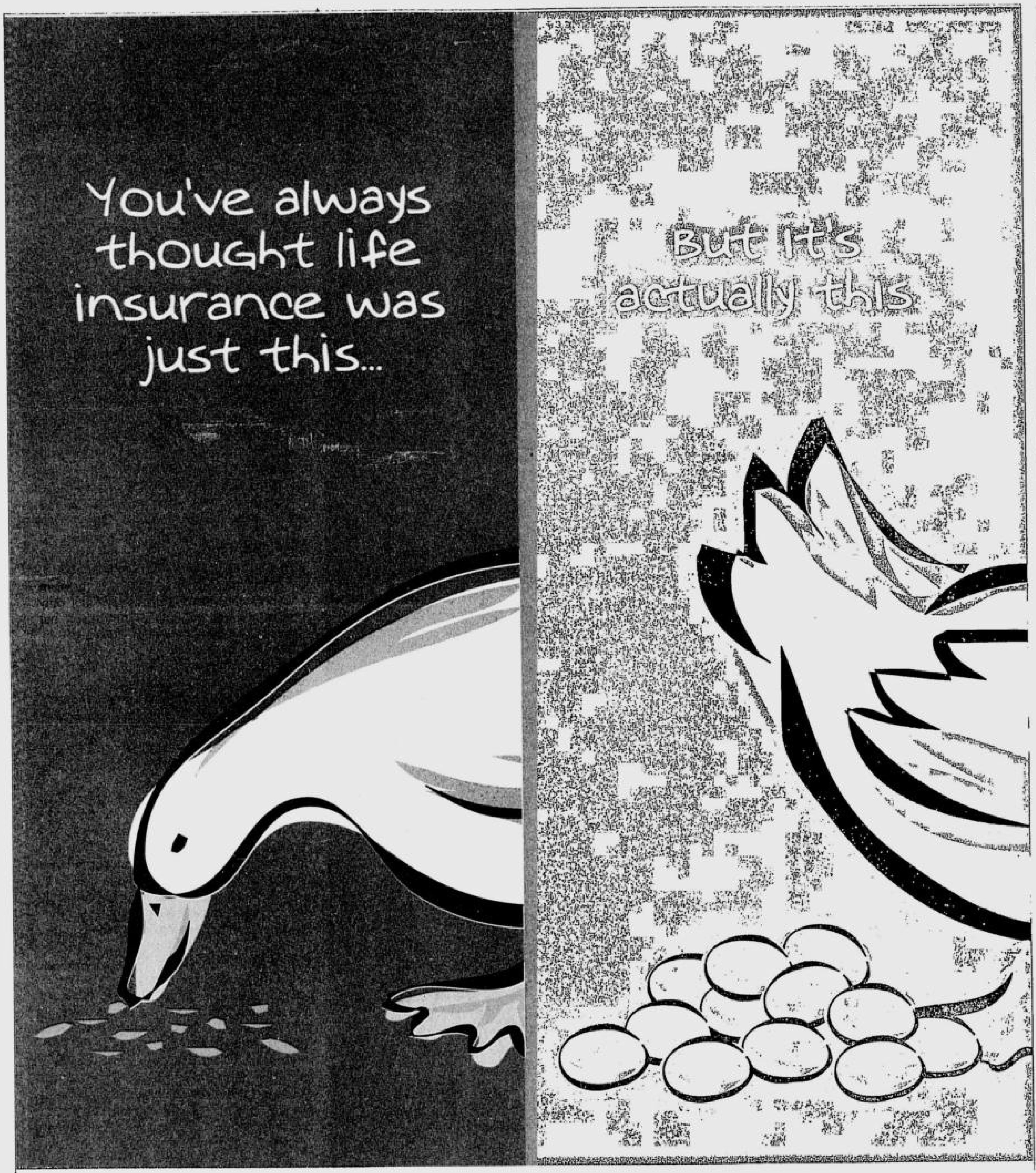

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US troops . . .

From page A1

Invited to the Cocis consultation chaired by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., House Speaker Jose de Venecia, Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri.

"I cannot announce the details of the consultation except that a consensus has been reached ... a consensus gelled ... on a new set of terms of reference," Afable said.

Afable said the TOR for Balikatan 03-1 will be "basically the same" as that of Balikatan 02-1 held in Basilan last year, an exercise credited for the killing, among others, of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

"In terms of principles, these terms of reference would contain provisions that would adhere to constitutional standards and United Nations resolutions in the fight against terrorism," Afable said.

Asked whether American soldiers will engage in combat, Afable said: "The terms of reference in the Basilan Balikatan state that US troops will not be involved in any offensive combat operations."

"They can only fire back in self defense," he said. "So we can only go as far as that."

Afable said that the TOR will be made public "once finalized upon mutual agreement" by both governments.

Representing the executive branch in the Cocis consultation were, among others, Reyes, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez and presidential adviser for the peace process Eduardo Ermita.

In the same briefing, Afable was also asked to comment on the advisories issued by Australia and New Zealand cautioning against travel to the Philippines because of terrorist threats.

"We are not making any pretensions that there are no terrorist threats in the Philippines," Afable said.

Aside from the Abu Sayyaf, Afable said there is also the "possibility of reprisals" from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which he noted is now subject to "punitive operations" by the Armed Forces.

"We do not really protest the prerogatives they (Australia and New Zealand) hold on these matters (of issuing travel advisories)," Afable said. *With a report from AFP*

By Jove . . .

From page A1

tiny objects between just two and eight kilometers across, making them the smallest moons ever to be detected from Earth.

The discoverers, Scott Sheppard and David Jewitt of the Institute for Astronomy at the University of Hawaii, have already notched up many jovian moons to their credit.

The newly found satellites have tilted, irregular orbits, which suggests they were lonely bodies that wandered the heavens until, billions of years ago, they were sucked into Jupiter's gravitational maw and never escaped.

Jupiter now has 52 of these "irregulars," according to their tally, which is reported on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science weekly.

60 'regulars'

In contrast to these are Jupiter's 60 "regular" satellites.

These are believed to have condensed from the same cloud of gas and dust that formed their parent, and circle the planet close in, tracking in tidy, circular, equatorial orbits.

The discovery restores Jupiter to its pre-eminence as the planet with the most moons.

The gassy giant accounts by itself for nearly half of the 128 known planetary moons in the Solar System.

Its closest rivals are Saturn, with 31 detected so far, followed by Uranus, with 21, and Neptune, 11.

The discovery is technically significant, because it shows how high-powered telescopes combined with modern computers can capture tiny objects in irregular orbits.

University of Maryland astronomer Douglas Hamilton believes the jovian king "will dominate the moon count for the foreseeable future," partly because it is closer to the Sun than the others and so its moons reflect more light.

Naming headache

The huge boost in moon detections poses something of a headache for the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the Paris-based association that vets astronomers' claims and attributes names to their discoveries.

The nomenclature of jovian moons builds on a tradition dating back to 1613, when Dutch astronomers Johannes Kepler and Simon Marius thought it would be fun to name them after Zeus' many lovers. Jupiter is the Latin name for Zeus, the ruler of the Olympian gods.

As Zeus had a long list of amorous conquests, it was quite easy to baptize new moons as they were gradually identified over the centuries.

But in recent years, dozens more moons have been added to the list.

The IAU has thus had to go beyond Zeus' little black book, and name the new moons after children or relatives of the lovers.

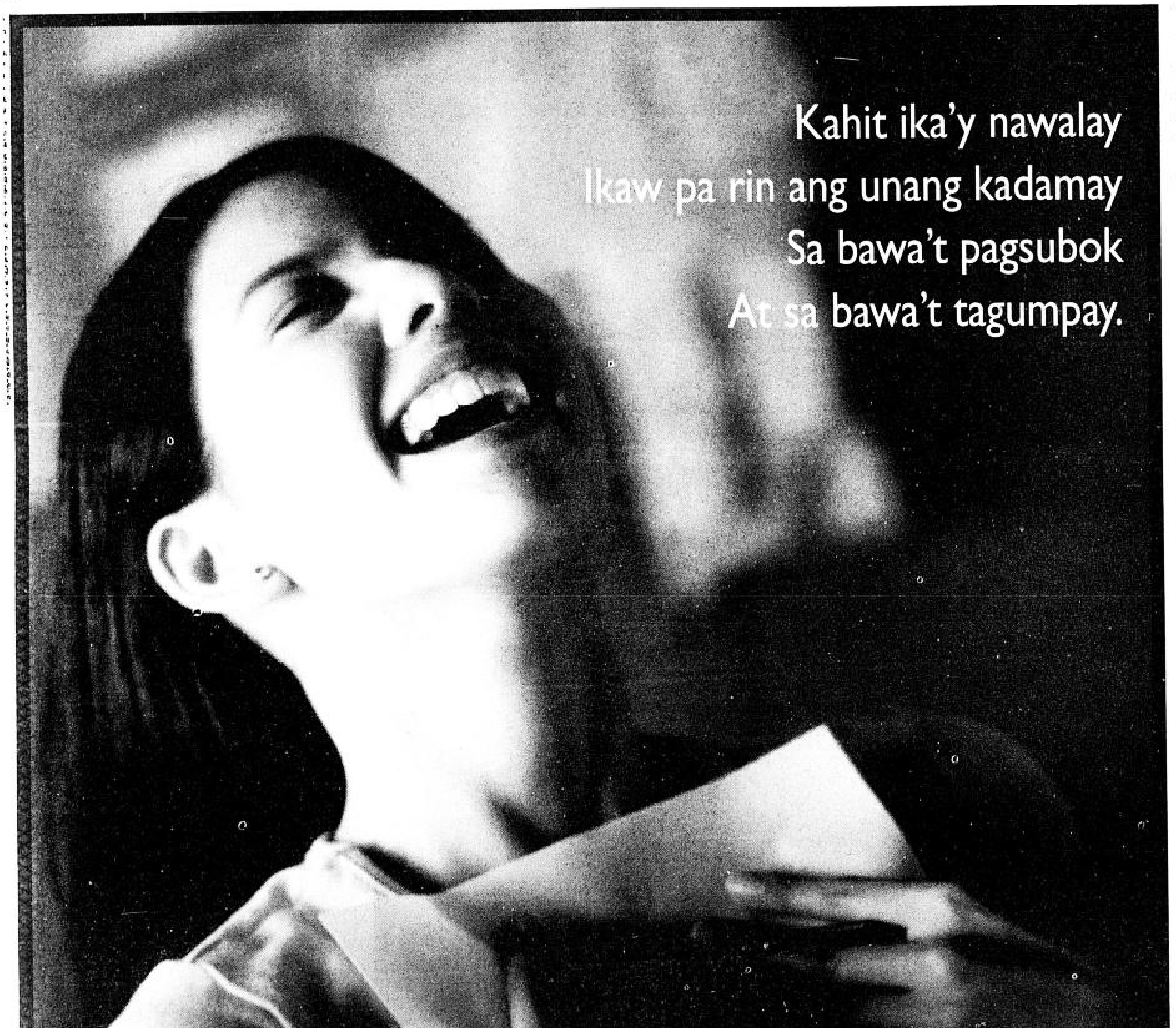
The last big update was in December 2002, when Themisto, a jealous child-killer; Taygete, a beautiful virgin who committed suicide; and Harpalyke, a hunter-warrior who could outrun a horse, were among 11 admitted to the list. *AFP*

WHO: Cats may get infected with SARS

GENEVA—Some cats may become temporarily infected with the SARS virus but they do not appear to be able to transmit the disease, a top World Health Organization official said.

David Heymann, head of WHO's communicable diseases unit, told journalists that the only studies on domestic pets like cats and dogs that he knew of had been carried out following the outbreak at the Amoy gardens apartment block in Hong Kong.

"They noticed that some cats did become infected transiently with SARS, but they (the cats) did not continue to harbor the disease and they didn't seem to be able to transmit it," he added. *AFP*



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan.
Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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JOAN BONDOC

The unidentified daughter of a protester against Bt corn eats an ear of the staple which has not been contaminated by the bacteria that makes Bt corn resistant to pests but possibly harmful to humans, at the protest site at the DA building in Quezon City yesterday.

Church backs protest vs Bt corn

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines has taken the side of the hunger strikers in the controversy over genetically engineered or Bt corn, saying genetically modified organisms (GMOs) were "dangerous to genetic integrity and human safety."

The CBCP National Secretariat for Social Action, Justice and Peace (Nassa) urged farmers all over the country to reject the Bt corn seeds to be distributed by the Department of Agriculture.

The advisory was issued after the DA announced that it would give free Bt corn seeds in time for the May 2003 planting season.

The CBCP also called for a moratorium on Bt corn commercialization and for a "credible and independent review of processes by which Bt corn were conducted."

"Farmers are about to lose control and ownership of a very important resource—the seed," said the CBCP-Nassa in a statement.

The CBCP led the two-day celebration of Farmers Day beginning May 15, the feast day of San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of farmers. Farmers Day was recognized as an annual church celebration last year.

In Iloilo City, more than 100 members of peasant groups and the clergy have expressed support for a moratorium on Bt corn.

The stand was issued during a peasant-clergy conference on May 14-15 that was attended by some 150 farmers, priests, nuns and Protestant pastors from all over Panay Island.

This was in response to the CBCP call for a moratorium and "credible review" of the field tests done on BT corn in the Philippines.

The genetically modified corn has a bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) added to it. The bacterium attaches itself to a cell and passes a new gene to the corn's DNA, making the corn less vulnerable to Asiatic corn borer (Ostrinia furnacalis).

The Department of Agriculture gave approval in December for US firm Monsanto to distribute and plant Bt corn in the Philippines, despite protests from environmental and farmer groups.

Monsanto had conducted field trials of Bt corn in Mindanao.

During the conference, Nicanor Perlas, head of the Center for Alternative Development Initiatives, warned the farmers against accepting Bt corn and other genetically modified crops because of their potential risk to environment.

Six farmer-leaders in Iloilo were among some 500 farmers in the Visayas who staged a sympathy hunger strike last May 9 by refusing to take anything solid for 24 hours.

Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said at a press conference here on May 14 that he could not grant a moratorium since the process by which Bt corn was approved for use took all of six years by the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines.

He said the approval of Bt corn was in line with the government's thrust to safeguard the competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

While the hunger strikers at the DA continued on their 25th day of fasting, a group of militant farmers yesterday feasted on native corn in another protest against the department's approval of the introduction of the genetically engineered corn. *With Gerald G. Lacuarta and Ma. Diosa Labiste, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Pinoy on US most wanted list

A 47-year-old Filipino "laborer" has been listed by the US Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement as one of the ten most wanted immigrants in the entire United States.

The list includes those aliens convicted of crimes ranging from vandalism and tampering with a vehicle to the more serious rape and gun possession. Terrorists were not on the recently released list.

Mario Agbulos Villanueva of San Bruno, California is wanted by the US Department of Homeland Security after he was convicted of committing lewd and lascivious acts against a child under 14 years old.

Villanueva, according to immigration records, hails from Manila and listed his job as a laborer.

Villanueva was placed on the list after federal authorities announced a crackdown against foreigners who have committed crimes in the US.

The US immigration and customs bureau estimates that there are around 80,000 criminals who should be deported to their native countries after serving time in federal prisons.

Statistics also showed that more than 300,000 criminals have received their deportation orders but managed to elude immigration authorities and stay in the US.

Others in the ten most wanted list with Villanueva included persons convicted of drug possession, rape, tampering with a vehicle, possession of a loaded gun and vandalism.

A number of them had convictions dating back to the early 1980's. *Norman Bordadora*

Ex-solon faces raps over 'pork'

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday filed graft and malversation charges against a former Mindanao lawmaker and four others, alleging anomalous purchases and failure to account for pork barrel funds.

The Ombudsman said ex-Surigao del Norte Rep. Constantino Navarro failed to explain before the Commission on Audit where P11.8 million of the P13.8-million Countrywide Development Fund he had at his disposal from 1997 to 1998 went.

Navarro was also cited for nine counts of graft involving the "overpriced" purchase of medicine, school supplies, drug testing kits and rice paddy plows for his district in the same period.

The overprice totaled at least P4.5 million, according to the charge sheet.

Accused with Navarro were three former Caraga regional directors of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Carlos Derecho (for seven counts of graft) and Romeo Jardenico (two counts), and Quirino Libunao; and then DILG Assistant Director for Regional Operations Benito Catindig (one count). *Volt Contreras*

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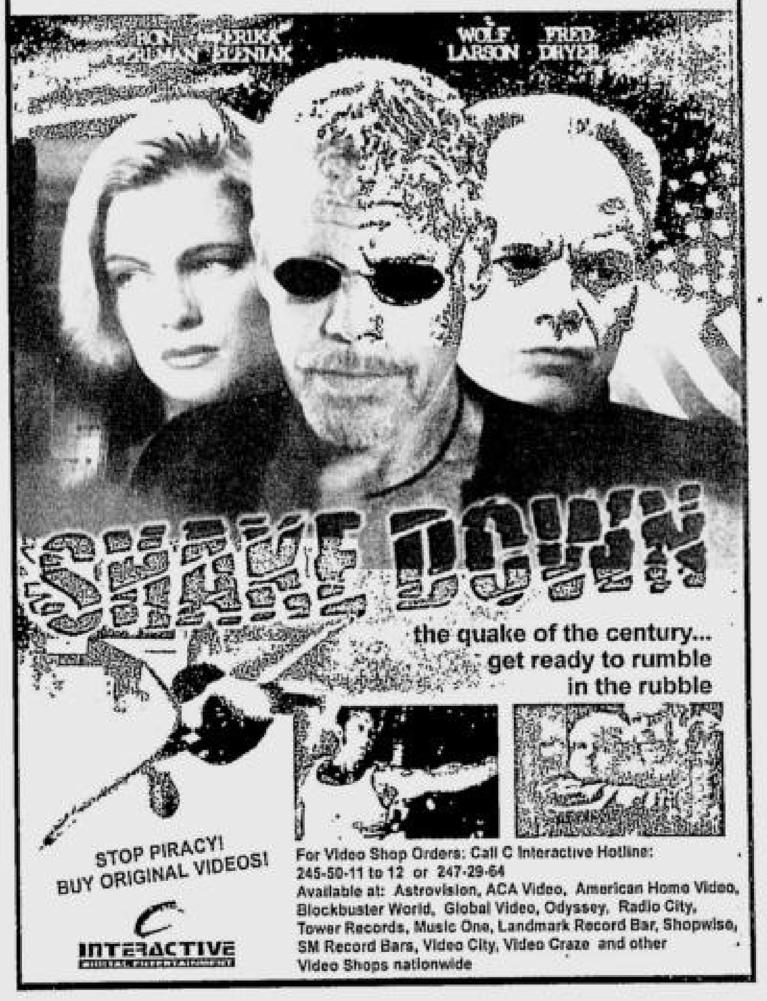

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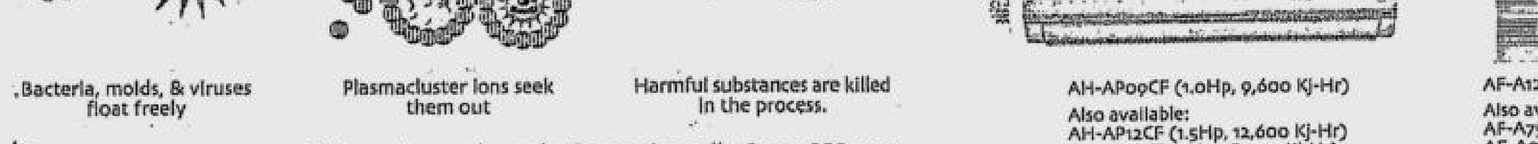

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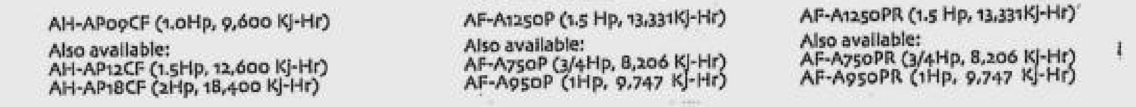

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INQUIRER

Vol. 18 No. 158
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Battle of the giants

EDITORIAL

IT comes as a welcome diversion to know that a big battle is looming between two business tycoons: Eduardo Cojuangco of the San Miguel Corp. conglomerate and Lucio Tan, whose interests range from spirits, banking, real estate, airlines and hog raising. They are heading for a collision over intellectual property rights stemming from the imminent launching by Tan's Tanduay Distilleries Inc. of a number of products bearing the Ginebra generic name.

The launch is a provocative challenge to Ginebra San Miguel of La Tondeña, the liquor subsidiary of SMC and the market leader in gin. Being a proud man, Cojuangco sees a challenge on his turf when he sees one and he is not ready to yield an inch of ground to a corporate predator like Tan. Cojuangco is taking on Tan and sparks are going to fly in the corporate world.

The conflict has its roots in an early dispute over Tan's audacious assault on San Miguel Pale Pilsen with his Beer na Beer which walked on the edge of product plagiarism—its bottle was a very close replica of Pale Pilsen. The dispute was settled not in the courts, but in the market where San Miguel crushed the challenge decisively.

In the present intellectual property dispute, there is nothing intellectual about it. It is all about booze. But the conflict is cast against the background of a larger battle: a contest of strength between two economic titans, with different business cultural backgrounds. This has political overtones.

In this country, state regulatory mechanisms are weak to curb the monopolistic impulses of big business. We don't have anti-trust legislation of the type that curbed American "robber barons" at the beginning of the century. Domestic dominance is checked in the market through competition, which often turns vicious and ruthless, among business conglomerates. With the state unable to curtail corporate excesses, it comes as a relief that big businesses check one another when their interests collide.

Cojuangco and Tan have some things in common. Both benefited from a crony relationship with the dictator Ferdinand Marcos whose crony capitalism gave opportunities to his friends to dominate certain sectors—in the case of Cojuangco, the coconut sector. Cojuangco rebuilt his business empire, which had been shattered after the 1986 People Power Revolution, in the protective milieu provided by his close association with the Estrada administration.

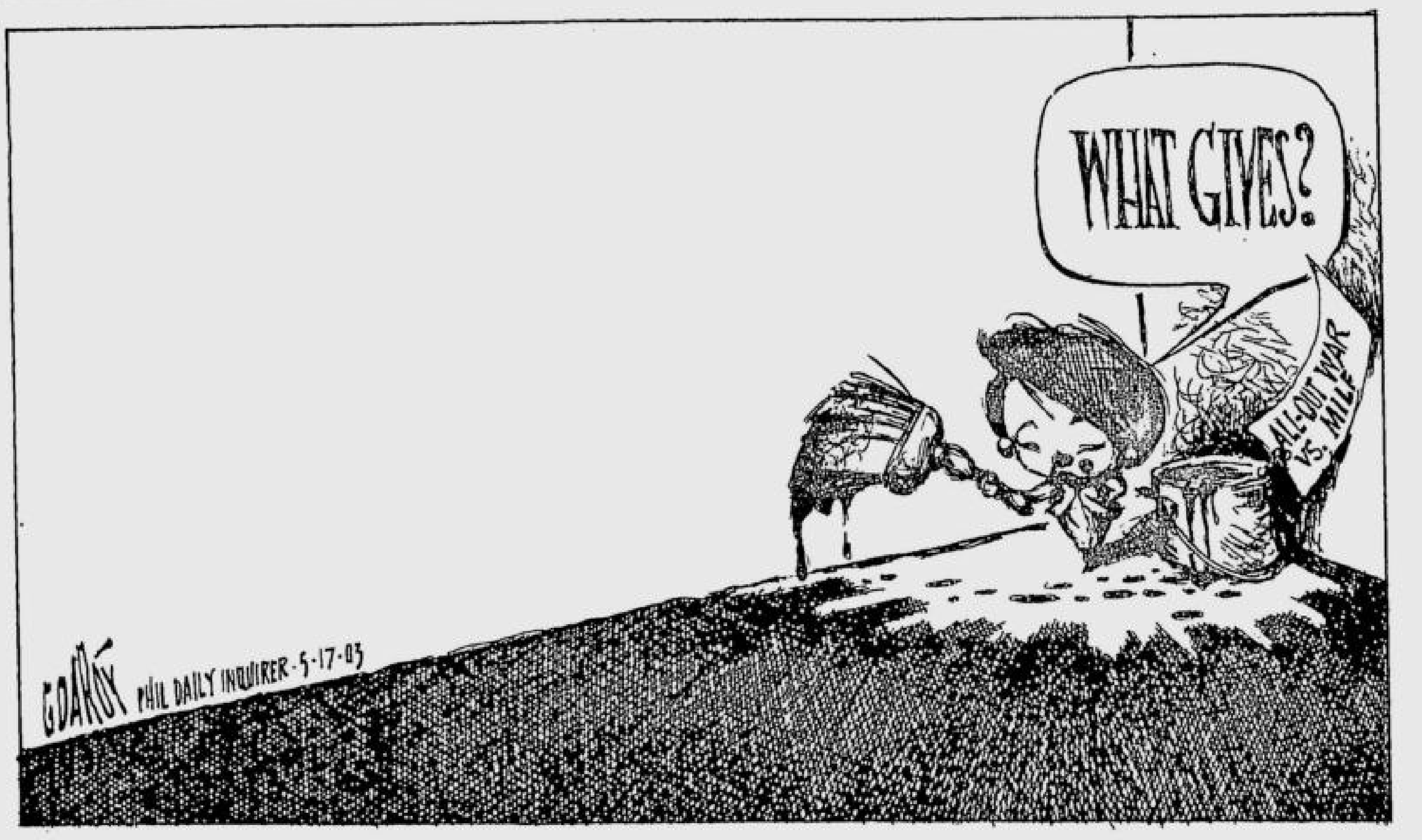
Tan, in the meantime, expanded his empire to now include Philippine Airlines and the previously state-owned Philippine National Bank. The irony is that Tan is wrapping the Philippine flag around his takeovers, painting them with patriotic motifs, an affront to Filipino nationalism.

Cojuangco, of course, as well as indigenous Filipino businessmen raising the banner of nationalism, cannot take sitting down this appropriation by Tan of the emblem of national interest. Their conflict is somehow an extension of the historical collision between old money and new money that emerged during the post-war years as the country lurched toward industrialization.

Cojuangco represents a segment of old money from the old Spanish-Chinese mestizo landed class, although much of his wealth is new, meaning it is grounded in businesses that had been given advantages by Marcos.

Lucio Tan is the epitome of new pariah wealth that surfed on the tide of Chinese-Filipino money which aggressively took advantage of economic opportunities opened by economic expansion. He is a leader among the "taipans" whose business culture has enabled them to dominate sectors of the economy and to acquire political influence through the backdoor (given that they cannot run for public office).

In political terms, since these two classes are the main source of election financing, their bifurcation can only lead to their counter-checking each other. But for the rest of us, the confrontation provides a great spectacle. Still as an old saying goes, when elephants fight, the ants get crushed underfoot. Since the state is not strong enough to curb their economic power, it is in the interest of the small and the weak that the combatants wound each other. There is a larger stake in this conflict than just trade names or copyright.



An adjustable Constitution

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I BELIEVE that every effort to change our Constitution has been motivated not by the public interest but by personal ambition or cupidity. The people have reacted variously, according not always to the merits of the proposed changes but to the persuasive skills of their proponents.

Consider the record.

The Constitution of 1935 provided for a six-year term for the President of the Philippines without re-election, but Manuel L. Quezon did not relish the idea of giving up power in 1941. He then thought aloud of amending the Constitution by shortening the presidential term to four years but with one re-election, for a maximum of eight years. Eager to support his plan, the Nacionalista-controlled National Assembly converted itself into a constituent assembly for this purpose. To make the change more palatable, they also replaced the unicameral legislature with a bicameral Congress and constitutionalized the Commission on Elections.

President Quezon personally campaigned for ratification on the argument that the six-year term was too long for a bad president and too short for a good president, presumably meaning himself. As expected, the proposed changes were readily ratified.

In 1968, the Congress of the Philippines dreamed up the extraordinary proposal to make its members *ex officio* delegates to the constitutional convention to be called to revise the Commonwealth Constitution. The people were outraged by this incredible effrontery and overwhelmingly rejected it.

As the expiration of his second term approached, Ferdinand Marcos tried to manipulate the members of the Constitutional Convention of 1971 into adopting a parliamentary government. There he hoped to retain power as prime minister. This was when the payola of many members to support this plan was exposed by Delegate Eduardo Quintero, who was in turn persecuted by Marcos. The scheme failed, but the president was not flustered.

What he did was declare martial law on Sept. 21, 1972. The draft Constitution of the uncooperative Convention was drastically changed to accommodate the new dictator's designs. It was then rammed down the throats of the people in a mock plebiscite that was sustained by the now-intimidated Supreme Court. Marcos changed or violated that same dictated Constitution to suit his purposes, always with the falsified ratification of the people.

It was during the martial law regime that the Constitution was reduced to a worthless document that Marcos could ignore at will. The Supreme Court docilely upheld his every act in the exercise of what it described as its "legitimizing" power.

Edsa I tolled the downfall of the dictatorship and the formation of a new government under the Constitution drafted by the appointive Constitutional Commission of 1986. President Corazon C. Aquino vigorously campaigned for its approval, stressing that it would be a limitation of her own powers under the provisional Freedom Constitution she herself had issued. The new charter was ratified on Feb. 2, 1987, over the objections of a largely disorganized opposition.

During the incumbency of President Fidel V. Ramos, a movement was launched, some say on his secret instructions, to amend the Constitution by replacing the one six-year presidential term to four years with one re-election. This was the Quezon plan again, except that Ramos did not openly advocate it but denied any part in it. Claiming they had collected a million signatures to support the proposal, the proponents asked the Commission on Elections to call a plebiscite. In two separate cases, however, the Supreme Court dismissed their petition for lack of the necessary implementing statute on the amendment of the Constitution by initiative.

Yielding to foreign pressure, Joseph Estrada organized a commission to delete the nationalistic provisions in the Constitution that were obstructing foreign investment and "globalization." Fortunately, nobody paid any attention to that useless study that had improvidently flushed hundreds of thousands of public funds down the drain.

And now we have Speaker Jose de Venecia again moving mightily to have the Constitution change the present government to a parliamentary system. He says the concurrent resolution for this purpose has already been approved in the House of Representatives (at midnight by 147 sleepless members) and that the Senate will follow suit. Senate President Franklin Drilon pooh-poohs the idea, but Sen. Edgardo Angara seems to be in favor.

Without choosing at this time between the contending forms of government, I echo the widespread suspicion that De Venecia, whose presidential bid failed in 1998, is so anxious to revise the Constitution because he wants to be prime minister. That's like entering Malacañang through the back door. Others say Angara will be the ceremonial president unless President Macapagal-Arroyo preempts him by also supporting De Venecia. As for the senators, they are mostly against the proposed change simply because it will abolish the Senate and make them jobless.

How can we remove personal interest from political office? Dear reader, you've got to be kidding!

Revising the UP charter

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE SENATE committee on education has been holding hearings on a revised UP charter. High time, too, since the original charter was written almost a century ago (the University of the Philippines was founded in 1908), and subsequent statutes and issuances amending it have for some unknown reason not been incorporated so that if an extraterrestrial were to read the present charter, it would come away with the impression that the chief executive of the Philippines was the American governor general.

The House is way ahead of the Senate on this one. House Bill 455, "An Act to Strengthen the University of the Philippines as the National University," which had 27 co-authors (the principal ones were from the Visayas: Nachura, Saludo, Suplico and Abayon), was approved on third reading in December last year.

The Senate members once again live up to their image of independence: no less than six senators, all but one being UP alumni, have filed their own versions of what the revised UP charter should be: Franklin Drilon, Serge Osmeña (the non-alumnus), Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan, Ed Angara and Manny Villar. Pangilinan, as head of the Senate education committee, has the unenviable task of trying to come up with one integrated version.

The hearing I attended yesterday was the third, and it was held not on Senate premises but at the UP Faculty Center in Diliman, presumably to ensure that the views of more faculty, students and staff would be heard. On that score, Pangilinan may have gotten more than what he bargained for. We're talking about UP, after all.

There was overwhelming agreement (UP being UP, it was not unanimous) that revisions were needed, one of the first being that UP should be conferred the status of "national university" to distinguish it from the more-than-100 state universities and colleges now dotting the countryside. What's the difference? Hopefully, UP as a national university and thus having the same status as Tokyo University, Beijing University, Chulalongkorn in Thailand, the National University of Singapore, the University of Malaya, the University of Indonesia, would also be given the same treatment, which is to be "built up to a world-class stature through the infusion of massive human and material resources."

Corollary to the national university concept, another necessary revision is that the UP salary scale must be exempted from the Salary Standardization Law, to allow the university to keep its faculty in the face of raids by other institutions.

The statistics show a horrifying trend: in the past two or three years and in the Diliman campus alone, at least 69 faculty (the list was partial) have left for greener pastures. Worse, more than 80 percent of these were either from the fields of Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics. And worst, more than 40 percent had Ph.D.'s. This inability to retain its best faculty, unless stopped or reversed, will see UP no longer able to fulfill its leadership role in higher education in the country, and falling farther and farther behind its Asian counterparts (which used to send their students to UP for graduate studies).

Some salary figures drive home the point: A full professor in UP receives P30,112 a month. At the Ateneo, the same rank would receive at least P50,000, or two-thirds more. De La Salle offers as much as P94,360, more than three times as much. The UP president, by the way, earns P40,000 a month, compared to P160,000 for his La Salle counterpart.

In this regard, Prof. Gil Jacinto of Marine Sciences made a couple of related and very important points: citing cross-country statistics for 2000 published by the now-defunct AsiaWeek, he showed that the monthly salaries of staff professors in the Philippines were 20 percent less than their counterparts in China, just slightly more than one-half that earned by their Thai counterparts, only 13 percent of what is being earned in Malaysia, and less than 8 percent of what a Singaporean staff professor earns on the average. Moreover, a professor in Malaysia earns more than a bank manager, architect, civil engineer, doctor and lawyer. In the Philippines, the opposite is the case: a professor earns anywhere between 37 and 40 percent of what is earned by the other professionals. An indication, says Jacinto, of the relatively lower status of the teaching profession in this country.

The discussion of the need for salary flexibility naturally led to a discussion of the composition of the Board of Regents, who would have to be given the power to determine pay scales, as well as to decide on income-generation schemes and the use of the incomes generated. The inclusion of the House and Senate education committee chairpersons as ex-officio members of the Board of Regents was attacked and defended. (Attack: they are ex-officio members of all 100+ state university and college boards, whose meetings they can't attend anyway, so why insist on them? Defense: they are representatives of the people, and these are government institutions.) For that matter, the process of selection of the members of the Board of Regents was criticized. (Upshot: a search committee, rather than arbitrary appointments from the Philippine president.)

If knowing the problem is half the solution, UP has contributed its half. The other half can only come from Congress.

Tight guard

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo leaves tonight for a state visit to the United States in what is billed as a White House "*parangal*" by US President Bush. This trip could be decisive for GMA. If she brings home the proverbial bacon, this could give her administration a big boost and even raise her popularity, something that any president wants to have at the end of his or her term. The citizens wish the President a fruitful trip to the US, but I also wish to echo the editorial of the Philippine Star expressing hope that the security forces she leaves behind will be on their tightest guard. Here we all should cooperate, for there could be forces that are out to embarrass GMA while she is in the US.

* * *

The surveys show GMA's rating going up, and one reason could be that she seems to be finally catching on with the *masa*. At the concert of Martin Nievera and Regine Velasquez last May 9, the fans vigorously chanted "GMA, GMA" and "President Gloria" as she entered the Araneta Coliseum accompanied by Gina de Venecia, Judy Araneta Roxas and Conchita Razon, Martin's mom. The fans rushed to touch her and shake her hand and periodically the bleacher crowd would resume their chant. GMA appeared pleased with all the adulation, smiling and waving to the fans. She looked like a fan herself in her pant suit, munching from a bag of popcorn Judy offered.

The fans went wild as Martin serenaded GMA, and she kept applauding his songs, just like them. She seemed to like especially "One More War," which Nievera and Freddie Santos composed to Louie Ocampo's music, whose lyrics are poignant and timely: "See the soldiers staring into space. Read the untold story on his face. One more war. I ask, What for? Can peace be far away?" Toward the end, the song goes: "Who has seen the soldiers' eyes? Who has heard the children's cries? I am one such voice in prayer, in dark of night, and in search of Peace. See the world and all its dreams. See each soldier home like me. Never lose hope. Live out each dream, with no more war."

* * *

Senate President Franklin Drilon called up to respond to my column articulating the wish of citizens to see the issue of Charter change either through a constituent assembly or a constitutional convention debated fully in the Senate plenary. This will happen if the committee on constitutional amendments and electoral reforms headed by Sen. Edgardo Angara musters eight out of the 14 votes. Drilon explained that with nearly 2,000 bills filed, the Senate has to work through the committees where initial debates take place. In the case of Charter change, the committee has to craft a consolidated report from the various resolutions on the issue, and this report must contain a specific recommendation, either for Consa or Con-con. If the report gets eight votes, said Drilon, it will automatically be tossed to the plenary where the sponsors have to defend it, but until then there can be no plenary debate.

But this is precisely the plea of many citizens: that it be taken up in plenary. We are looking for eight fearless senators.

* * *

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' tight schedule in the last few days is perhaps illustrative of the stamina Cabinet members must have. Last week he flew to the United States where he conferred with Bush officials led by National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice. Upon his return Tuesday, he rushed to Mindanao to look into several episodes of MILF violence. Wednesday evening, he was meeting with INQUIRER editors and columnists until past midnight. (He leaves with the President tonight.) It was a long rambling conversation filled with candor and frankness that touched, among other things, on his "stage debut" with the other two "tenors" ("I was so nervous"), to the alleged **collusion between Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez and the Abu Sayyaf, an issue that was revived by Gracia Burnham's book ("the media are barking up the wrong tree"), to the AFP's struggle against dissident forces. The exchange with Reyes was quite stimulating, doubtless encouraged by the lateness of the hour when everyone's guard was down, and with the good wine he brought.**

* * *

I found most profitable our dialogue on the MILF and the NPA. Reyes expressed frustration that while the Communist Party has its National Democratic Front which enables it to openly penetrate various sectors of the citizenry, e.g. labor, farm and fisherfolk sectors, the AFP, in his view, does not have a "counterpart organization." In fact, he expressed frustration that even some local government officials seem to be playing both sides, treating the military as though it were another force with which they have nothing to do and the anti-insurgency campaign as something in which they have no stake at all. Reyes also lamented that some NGOs seem to adopt this attitude too, citing for instance, the cry of some citizens' groups for "zones of peace" that seek to leave out both the AFP and the MILF or NPA. He said such balancing act of government couldn't be imagined in Malaysia and Singapore.

* * *

I agreed with Reyes' observation that the AFP is not quite as effective as the Left in the propaganda war, and I offered several reasons for this seeming alienation of the military. One is that there is still a faint hangover from the Marcos regime when some people turned away from the AFP because of its many abuses. Now the AFP is much better behaved, but the sentiment could still be there. Only good behavior can win hearts and minds.

Another is what a former Marine commander in Sulu and Basilan, retired Brig. Gen. Ponciano Millena, pointed out to this columnist: "Perhaps the troops no longer court civil relations the way we used to do. Perhaps they have neglected this crucial component."

Impact of SARS

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE EVENT of a SARS outbreak in a remote part of the country without quarantine facilities, the Aboitiz Group has offered the use of an inter-island vessel for quarantine and isolation of SARS cases. The patients on board the quarantine ship will be looked after by a team of health caregivers, and regularly supplied with food, water and medicines. Communication with their families will be maintained.

The plan, said private sector representatives present at the meeting where Aboitiz made the offer, is currently being assessed for its feasibility by a team from the World Health Organization.

I am, however, skeptical. "Sounds like the Ship of Fools," I comment, referring to the ship filled with European Jews fleeing Nazi persecution who were condemned to sail from port to port, prevented from disembarking by governments afraid of courting Hitler's wrath. Still, I concede that the plan only shows how creative corporations are becoming as they consider a joint private sector and government response to SARS.

In the Calabarzon area, I'm told, locator companies in the economic zones have banded together and worked out a plan with government hospitals for the quick transfer of any employee who shows symptoms of SARS. As Manolo Escueta, corporate affairs head of United Laboratories which initiated the corporate "coalition" against SARS, pointed out, "It will be too expensive for one company to fight (this problem) alone." By some estimates, the number of employees and their families working in Metro Manila-based companies could easily rise above 300,000.

And as most of us know by now, the impact of the new disease goes way beyond the individual who happens to be sick with it.

* * *

THE MEN from Unilab concede that, at least for their company's bottom line, SARS is proving to be profitable. Sales of vitamin C, which Unilab markets under various brand names, have soared. But Dr. Alex Tuazon, a member of Unilab's medical task force on SARS, is the first to concede that "we don't want people to be taking vitamin C indiscriminately. It's also possible to overdose on it."

Still, searching for any means to protect themselves against the disease, people are popping vitamin C in the belief that this will boost their immunity to the SARS virus.

Is Unilab jumping on the SARS bandwagon to increase public anxiety about SARS and thereby widen its market? Says Dr. Tuazon: "The consumer is smart. He or she would quickly see through your machinations. You would then lose your credibility entirely, and they would no longer believe your claims."

Even as other companies, like marketers of rubbing alcohol, household bleach and disinfectants, unashamedly use SARS—or fear of SARS—in their pitches, corporations in the "coalition against SARS" have decided to use their advertising budgets for more public welfare causes. They're looking into the feasibility of devoting their prime-time television bookings to air public service messages about SARS.

* * *

DR. TUAZON concedes that even in the face of a threat like SARS, there is an opportunity to teach the Filipino public lessons on good health and what he calls "preventive habits" that have been overlooked. Such as washing your hands, particularly after using the bathroom.

I remember a survey conducted by the University of the Philippines School of Public Health on the health practices of Filipinos, which revealed that while Filipino children are very conscious about washing their hands before eating, they do not as a matter of habit, wash their hands after using the toilet.

"Health authorities have said this would be the best time for medical officers like us to convince our employers to invest in their employees' health, such as providing soap dispensers and paper towels or hand driers in the restrooms," says Dr. Tuazon.

The threat of SARS should also convince companies to draft health protocols, not just in case of SARS infection, but also for other public health concerns, since the Philippines does not lack for infectious diseases that could just as easily spread through the workplace. "It's also a good time to look at different health-related issues," says Dr. Tuazon.

A "BUSINESS Summit on SARS," convened recently by the Department of Trade and Industry, focused primarily on how businesses should respond to the threat of SARS, both in terms of their employees' welfare, as well as making sure business activity and consumer behavior are not affected adversely.

But for the Philippines, there is another dimension to the SARS threat, and that is the fate of our overseas workers.

A special report on GMA-7 detailed the plight of Filipino entertainers in China and Hong Kong, who now find their lucrative contracts suddenly curtailed or not forthcoming, what with the economic slowdown in these areas and the sudden disappearance of the tourist trade and nightlife. Talent agencies are now starting to explore other destinations for our talents, the report said, but there's still a very real possibility that the market for entertainers—as well as domestics—who are, after all, "luxuries" that families falling on hard times can ill afford, will dry up much sooner than we anticipated.

What are the government's plans, if any, should we see a sudden flood of returning OFWs? Will there be any jobs waiting for them when we ourselves are coping with double-digit unemployment?

Perhaps this is something the private sector can study together with the government. The impact of SARS goes far beyond issues like quarantine and soap in restrooms. What do we do when our overseas workers start streaming home?

The Christ of San Juan del Monte

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(The following article was written eight months before the bombs started falling on the Philippines in 1941. Some of the things mentioned may still exist, but I doubt that they have the same cultural or even religious value they once had.)

ON THE THIRD of May was celebrated the feast of the finding of the Cross of Our Lord. If one was a foreigner and didn't bother to ask or was a native but had forgotten the significance of the date, one could suspect that the caravan of vehicles was carrying people on their way to the *sabong* for an extraordinary fiesta of *pintakasi* that had been permitted on an ordinary day. You would have been mistaken because these were not aficionados of cockfights but pilgrims, humble workers or peasants, citizens of modest means, distinguished gentlemen and ladies as well who were on their way to the ancient and historic sanctuary of San Juan del Monte to express their devotion to the miraculous Santo Cristo that for the past 300 years had been worshipped there.

The number of devotees could not compare to those of the Nazarene of Quiapo despite improved means of transportation since traveling to San Juan del Monte was difficult and took much time. But the tradition was still kept before the war and devotion to the crucified Christ of San Juan del Monte was maintained.

The members of the Cofradia del Santo Cristo, established in 1643, were determined to continue the tradition of honoring the Lord in this miraculous image with a sung Mass every Friday of the year. The residents of the area, in the tradition too of their ancestors, did not miss these Fridays. Based on the few manuscripts that were conserved relative to the sanctuary and image of the Crucified Christ, it is inferred that this was once larger and had a major chapel that no longer existed even before the war.

The only thing that could be affirmed was that the walls and foundation were the same as the original. These were so thick that they had resisted all the earthquakes since their inception. From the architectural point of view, the sanctuary did not offer anything extraordinary to admire. But it imparted an impression of solidity and firmness symbolic of the resistance and piety of the ancient missionaries and of those who had received examples of virtue and their religious instruction from them.

On these walls were written in the olden days a series of *quintillas* (five-line stanzas with two rhymes) that began on the left wall of the church from the entrance and continued to the main altar continuing onto the right wall. It was certainly not a gem of a poem, but a literary curiosity that has been preserved, thanks to the patience of whoever copied the series of 50 stanzas in 1772.

Who among the priests could have been the author of those stanzas? It remains anonymous, but it could have been one of those religious who were resting or passing their convalescence in that convent and who, moved by the devotion of the faithful to the Crucified Christ, felt it was a fitting homage to the Redeemer to adorn the walls of the temple not with paintings since he didn't have the talent but at least with some robust poems that made up for his lack of talent.

There weren't many documents pertaining to the sanctuary and the image, but in the old Sto. Domingo Church in Intramuros was one that stated thus: "In the year 1602 Capt. Julian de Cuenca, owner of the cattle ranch, gave to the Dominican Order a little hill and a piece of property so that the Order, in imitation of San Francisco del Monte, could construct a house or convent. The Order accepted and began the construction of the present sanctuary today called S. Juan del Monte."

In 1639 the Sangleys revolted and burned the convent and everything therein, which is the reason for the scarcity of documents. In 1641 the convent was reconstructed and the collections and writings of Capt. Santiago de Gastelu that passed before Blas Polo, Royal Scribe, Feb. 6 and March 2, 3, 4 of 1641 were gathered and executed anew.

At the time of the Sangley Revolt, in the haste and fright of the flight of the friars from the church of Parian, the head of the image had fallen without anyone noticing and could not be found. The crucifix was brought to Sto. Domingo and another head carved. Not knowing where to install the image, Fr. Sebastian de Oquendo decided to send it to San Juan del Monte where it was placed on the right hand wall.

Afterwards prominent citizens decided to make a novena of Masses so that every Friday a Misa de Pasion with music could be sung for the souls of the founders, their wives, children and heirs.

On the feast of the Sta. Cruz de Mayo there was to be a sung Mass conducted by a deacon and sub-deacons with a sermon as part of the service. This was established in 1643, after which the image was transferred to the main altar.

The name of Gov. Sebastian Hurtado de Corcuera appears on the document as one of the donors and the last was that of Sr. D. Fr. Bernabe Cezon in the year 1887.

(From Hispanidad, April 1941.)

Choices

YOUNG BLOOD

Alib de la Cruz Estimo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

FIVE months ago, I decided to leave a financially comfortable life and venture on my own. I was not looking for a new job that would augment my spending power. And it was not because my material wants exceeded my needs. Rather my personal and emotional growth was at stake. In all my 26 years, I had never had my back to the wall. Neither had I to give up an opportunity which provided so much for my self and my family. But I guess when push comes to shove, you either give in or get out.

Frankly, it has been hard trying to make the most of what I have and still keep a happy face. A lot of people have been asking me why I had to leave. I tried to answer, as honestly as I could, but there were still gossipmongers who really loved to make a mountain out of a molehill. Some of them even tactlessly asked me whether it was because of a professional rift between my boss and me—my real boss, that is. I politely told them no.

Some well-meaning friends told me that I should air my side to stop speculations. Honestly, I couldn't care less if people believe me or not. I have never been one to go out of my way to convince others. You know why? Regardless of how truthfully you answer their questions, it really boils down to whether they want to believe you or not. People have preconceived notions about others. I might say no, but they will think, "Yeah right!" So, why waste my breath? I don't get paid for that and believe me I would appreciate it more if they got on their way and left me alone. But that's human nature. People are people—scheming, bitter and hypocritical.

I believe that it is never too late to stand up for yourself. If you have integrity and you want to preserve your dignity, you have to make a choice.

I did, but others told me I was insane. It was a crazy choice all right, but it was the right one for me. Instead of complaining and whining about other people's success and my misfortunes, I got to work and became productive. Prayers and self-motivation worked for me. I told myself that I have to get on with my life and start anew. What is past is past. Learn to forgive and forget. I won't get anywhere if I bear grudges and promise retribution. Sometimes, God tells us to do one thing but because we are stubborn, we do the opposite. It is only when we get kicked in the butt and find ourselves down in the mud that we wake up and discover opportunities that have been lying there all along.

For the past months, with bills to pay and without a steady income, I have learned to pick myself up and courageously face the world. Nobody can fully discover his potential until the hard facts of life bulldoze their way into his existence.

Every night, I would lie awake, tired of thinking. I couldn't sleep because of so many things to worry about. That was when God would give me an inspiration and then I would fall asleep with a smile on my lips. The next day, ideas would crop up.

I have a journal full of writings to prove this.

Without an 8 to 5 job, I have now time for the things that I love. Baking started as a hobby. Now, I sell my cakes. The business is doing well, but I hope to do even better.

Selling school supplies and RTWs are my milking goats (they have not turned into cash cows yet).

What I have learned from my experience is that it is never too late to start on your own and be productive. I am not saying you have to give up a financially rewarding job and be like me. Getting employed is a very good option, but I am not going to give up what I have started.

When you have an interest, pursue it to such an extent that it can generate income for you. Then it's like having the best of both worlds. You have something to fall back on in case you want to be your own boss.

It's not easy. It takes guts and a lot of your time and prayers.

Choices have to be made every day of our lives. The limits of one's capacity to overcome adversity cannot be known until one faces a challenge squarely. There will be jeers, snide remarks and toxic feedbacks. Pray, smile and focus on your work. It will get you through. I know—I have been there.

Putting my life in order is my focus now and I'll get it done. Remembering now, I had to choose between 1 and 2. Had I chosen 1, I would have gotten only 1. But since I chose 2, I got 1, and 2 to fall back on.

Alih de la Cruz Estimo, 26, used to work in a bank. She likes being her own boss now.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO . . .?

BW scandal

BUSINESSMAN Dante Tan, a close friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada, was charged with three cases of violation of the Revised Securities Act on Dec. 18, 2000 before the Pasig City regional trial court. Two related cases were also filed, one against former Best World Resources Corp. president Eduardo Lim Jr. and another against investor Jimmy Juan. The cases were raffled off to Branch 153 Judge Briccio Ygaña.

The charges filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Justice accused the three and several other persons, brokerage houses and corporations of "employing manipulative devices and schemes" to boost BW stock. The price of BW plunged after Stanley Ho, a casino tycoon, took a minority stake and assumed the chairmanship of the company. The rapid rise and fall of BW prices almost caused the collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange and severely damaged investors' confidence. The scandal contributed to the downfall of Estrada.

Tan voluntarily surrendered on Dec. 20, 2000 and posted a P120,000 bond. Lim and Juan surrendered the next day and posted a P40,000 bond each. They all pleaded "not guilty" when arraigned on Jan. 16, 2001.

The prosecution filed its formal offer of evidence on Sept. 18, 2001. However, on June 11, 2002, it moved to withdraw the formal offer and asked the court to reopen the presentation of evidence. The court granted the motion on Sept. 5.

Last Feb. 28, the prosecution finally filed its formal offer of evidence. But two days later, it requested the court to admit additional pieces of evidence for marking. The court did not allow this anymore.

Case status: On March 25, the prosecution asked the court to reconsider its earlier decision disallowing the marking of additional evidence. The defense opposed the motion, and the court has yet to resolve the question.

Armin Adina, PDI Research Department, with research from James Michael Quizon, PDI trainee

Questions about Malampaya

MAY I comment on the story, headlined "Guingona hits GMA on gas funds' use," last May 3. It looked as if Vice President Teofisto Guingona was criticizing President Macapagal-Arroyo for misusing the proceeds from Malampaya's sales.

The truth, however, is that the funds were never intended to "redeem the country's environmental program." In the first place there has been no report that funds from Malampaya's operations have started to pour in since the pipeline was opened in October 2001. No funds received, so no funds misallocated.

Will the Department of Energy be kind enough to tell us when we will start enjoying our money? The DOE says Malampaya's deposit is worth more than $19 billion. Shouldn't we all, most of all the President, be eager to know when this P1-trillion worth of crude oil and natural gas will be available to alleviate our economic problems?

There are reports that Service Contract No. 38 negates all our hopes from Malampaya. It seems the contract signed by our government allocates 70 percent of all proceeds from Malampaya to the consortium as payment for exploration expenses it incurred, which are said to have run up to $2 billion. According to Energy Secretary Vince Perez, the exploration team is entitled to a return on investment plus profit, for taking the risk. If the value of Malampaya is at least $19 billion, the contract will give $13.3 billion to the consortium for risking $2 billion, an enormous giveaway.

SC 38 also allocates 40 percent of the balance to the same consortium, and our government, 60 percent of 30 percent or 18 percent of Malampaya's total value. Before everything is lost, will Perez please explain?

In your editorial on Oct. 18, 2001 you enumerated the benefits Malampaya would bring: (a) 52 percent self-sufficiency in electricity that would supply one-fourth of the country's requirements, (b) savings of $700 million in import bills, (c) supply of low-cost cooking gas and vehicle fuel, and (d) securitization of $10-billion royalty. Has any of these happened after two years?

Shell, Malampaya's operator, pipes in to its refilling plant in Tabangao the natural gas from Malampaya. This is a better alternative to its Shellane LPG. Could it be that liquefied natural gas (LNG) is already being sold to us as Shellane?

Shell also exports Malampaya's crude oil, which has 50 percent gasoline, 50 percent diesel to it's own refinery in Singapore at $16 per barrel even if prices went up to $30. The proceeds did not go to our national treasury.

It looks like our gas and our money are being taken away by foreigners. I am confused! Let's hear more from the INQUIRER about this matter.

—ALBERTO F. DEL PILAR,
F. Jacinto Group of Companies,
1 Apo St., Suburban Heights
Subd., Cainta, Rizal

Gracia cleared the Armed Forces

THIS pertains to the excerpts from Gracia Burnham's book, "In the Presence of My Enemies," which recounted that a general allegedly colluded with the Abu Sayyaf. Burnham also claimed that gunfire from the military wounded her and killed her husband Martin and Ediborah Yap.

The collusion issue against a general is untrue and preposterous. Burnham based her story on information given by Abu Sabaya and other Abu Sayyaf terrorists while she was in captivity. The information is one-sided, unfounded and unverified.

With regard to the allegation that military gunfire hit Gracia, Martin and Ediborah, we believe that this was unlikely. It was raining at the time of the rescue. Gracia did not have a clear view as to which group fired at them.

Likewise, Gracia after the rescue, revealed that she and Martin rolled over from their hammock upon hearing the sound of gunfire. Then, they slid downward on a slope, which may have forced the Abu Sayyaf to shoot them for fear that they might escape. Furthermore, it was only the Abu Sayyaf which knew their location.

We thank Gracia for her latest brave statements, which rectified her revelations in the book. In her interview with Fox News, she did not accuse the military of collusion with the Abu Sayyaf over a ransom payment. In fact, she stated that she believed that the Philippine military did everything to rescue them and admitted that many Filipino soldiers lost their lives. Also, Gracia did not belittle what the Philippine military did for them.

We believe that these statements are enough to vindicate the military. Indeed, the 45 soldiers killed during the rescue operations for the Burnhams attest to the sacrifices of our soldiers.

We hope the latest statements of Gracia will clear this issue of collusion and that it will finally be laid to rest. We honestly believe that our generals would not do such a dastardly act. We have a high regard for our superior officers, whose integrity is unquestionable.

—M/SGT. ARNALDO P. APDUA,
103rd Brigade, 1ID,
Tabiawan, Isabela, Basilan

Binibining Pilipinas keeps hands off pageant judging

I WRITE concerning an article you published last April 25 in connection with the Binibining Pilipinas 2003 Beauty Pageant held on March 15, 2003. The article said that "hours before (or a day before) the contestants were fed the questions that were likely to be asked."

Please be informed that there is absolutely no truth to your story. Our policy, first and foremost, is never to interfere with the judging, a policy we have maintained over the years. It is inconceivable that the BPCI management would seek access to questions that the judges may (or are likely to) to ask and even more so, pass them around "hours before" the contest.

Second, the pageant was closely monitored by representatives of the Department of Trade and Industry which by law is tasked to see to it that the contest is precisely free from "leaks" and all forms of cheating. In addition, an independent accounting firm—Sycip, Gorres and Velayo—assisted us.

The Binibining Pilipinas Charities, Inc. has for 45 years worked hard to preserve its integrity in the industry and not any less, as a non-stock, non-profit charity organization. We are assuring the INQUIRER that we would be the last to "rig" our own contests as your article unfairly suggested.

—LUCAS F. PASILIAO,
chief operating officer,
Uniprom Inc., Araneta Coliseum,
Araneta Center, Quezon City

The story, "Binibini girls cry 'unfair,'" was based on the accounts of four Binibining Pilipinas candidates, two of whom claimed they were given a list of possible questions. For the sake of balanced reporting, the Entertainment section published the reaction of Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. (BPCI) officials two days after the first story on the pageant came out ("Binibini losers' complaints 'silly, sour grapes,'" on April 29, 2003.

—MARINEL CRUZ

New Testament only has four gospels

THIS is to comment on the Lifestyle article, "Did Jesus and Mary Magdalene have a romantic relationship?" written by Jaime T. Licauco in your May 6 issue. The conclusion of the writer was a resounding yes, and his principal basis for such conclusion was a pseudepigraphal new testament book, titled "The Gospel of Philip," allegedly discovered in Nag Hammadi, Upper Egypt, in 1945.

The "gospel of Philip" is not one found in any existing Bible accepted by the Christian community. The New Testament has only four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Aside from Philip, there are several other pseudepigraphal gospels or writings which were not included in the Bible. Early church fathers and leaders had their own conditions, grounds or rules for accepting a book as truly inspired (by the Holy Spirit). They had to be keen and strict in determining the genuineness of any writing or book since numerous spurious and heretical books appeared in the 2nd and 3rd centuries which, according to Eusebius, were "totally absurd and impious."

Dr. Nomer Bernardino has written that "the church leadership then did not receive any writing or document just from any stranger. These documents were hand delivered by friends of the Apostles to elders who also knew the Apostles personally. Hence, forgeries would be obvious, especially if the writing promoted strange doctrines..."

Bernardino added that "the books comprising the Bible went to a long and slow process of recognition. We depended on the early Christians' decisions that each of the 27 books (New Testament) had apostolic authorship. We do this since they were in a better position to judge. The reason for this lies in the concept of apostolicity, which limits it to a certain place and time. Those at the correct place and time, the recipient of each writing, are in the best position to say where the writings came from." Of course, this is all through the grace and providence of God.

Why then was the "gospel of Philip" not included in the present Bible? Probably, it came from or were authored by strange men, promoting strange doctrines, or it was never presented before any Christian church leader or organization at the time.

Adding the "gospel of Philip" would be like having a complete file of Walt Disney books and adding another book which purports to be a lost Walt Disney book only to find out that the characters in the book are Wolverine, Spiderman and the X-men Team. You know that it should not be included in your Walt Disney collection.

—CONSTANTINO L. NAVARRO III,
Suite 1504, The Centerpoint
Condominium, Julia Vargas
Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

FROM KENYA TO ASIA

New terror alerts issued across globe

SINGAPORE—Terror alerts spread around the world on Friday with Australia and New Zealand warning their nationals to be on their guard in Southeast Asia, a region still haunted by last year's Bali bombings.

As Saudi, FBI and CIA agents hunted for the masterminds of this week's suicide bomb attacks in Riyadh, the US State Department said on Thursday it feared an imminent attack by Islamic militants in another Saudi city, Jeddah.

Lebanon said it had smashed a plot to attack the US Embassy in Beirut, while Britain banned flights to Kenya, where past terror attacks have killed hundreds.

In Pakistan, a US ally in the war on terror, nearly two dozen small bombs exploded at Western-branded petrol stations.

Governments around the world believe al-Qaida, the network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, and its allies are planning more assaults on Western targets.

"It could be a variety of potential targets. It could be a variety of types of attacks," a US official said on condition of anonymity.

The intelligence was of "roughly" similar intensity to that before Monday's bombing attacks on expatriate compounds in Riyadh that killed at least 34 people, including seven Americans.

The Australian foreign office said Australians should be extremely cautious in Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, East Timor and Brunei.

"We continue to receive reports that terrorist elements in the region are planning attacks," it said.

Jemaah Islamiah, a radical Muslim group linked to al-Qaida, is accused of the October 2002 bombings in Bali nightclubs that killed more than 200 people, many of them young Westerners.

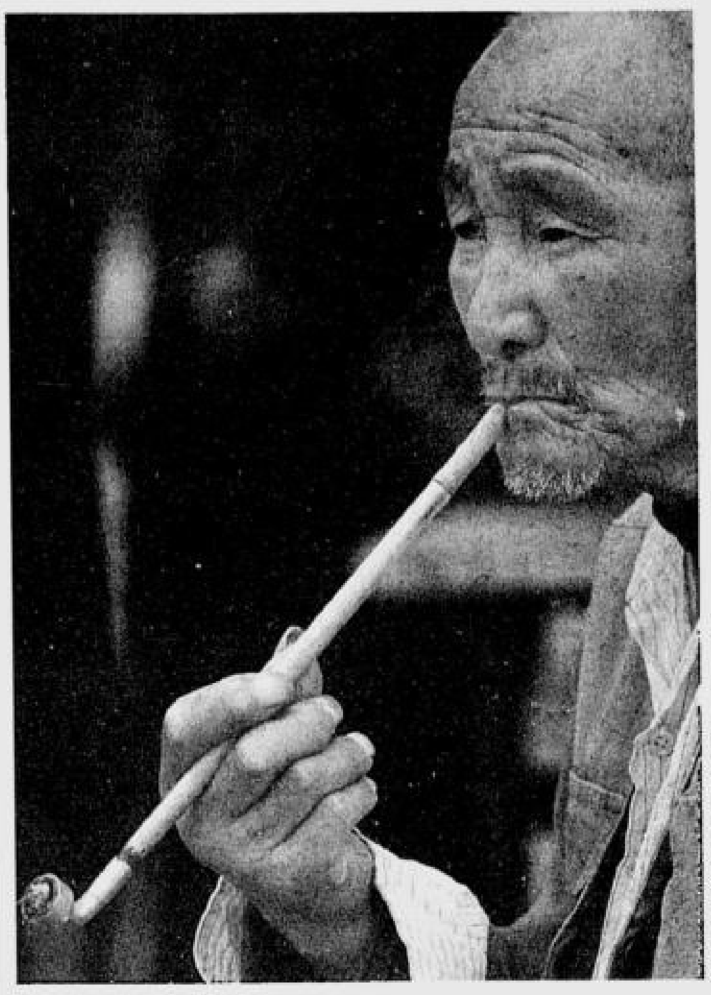
US sources said on Friday a decision to renew a travel warning to Americans visiting Malaysia was not driven by any fresh information of a terrorist threat in the mostly Muslim country.

The Riyadh bombings were the first big attack on US interests since the ousting of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, portrayed by Washington as an integral part of its war on terror.

The United States stuck to its view that this anti-terror war had shattered al-Qaida's leadership, but Homeland Security chief Tom Ridge said: "The potential is still very, very real."

Reinforcing that threat, the State Department said it feared a repeat of Monday's bombings in Saudi Arabia.

"The US Consulate General in Jeddah has received an unconfirmed report that a possible terrorist attack in the Al Hamra district of Jeddah may occur in the near future," it said in a statement. *Reuters*



WARDING OFF SARS
An elderly man smokes his pipe, May 16, in rural Changping, on the outskirts of Beijing. Among the many rumors that have circulated across the Chinese capital, the epicenter of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak, is that smoking was good for one's health in fighting off the virus, with many claiming most SARS victims were non-smokers. AFP

Death toll in Chechnya bomb attack rises to 18

MOSCOW—The death toll rose to 18 Thursday in the second suicide attack to strike Chechnya this week, pro-Russian officials in the breakaway republic said.

At least 18 people died when a female suicide bomber blew herself up during a religious procession on the outskirts of the eastern village of Iliskhan-Yurt, Chechen emergencies minister Ruslan Avtayev said, quoted by Interfax news agency.

The death toll was confirmed by the Chechen prosecutor's office and a district official who said 43 people remained in hospital in a critical condition, news agencies reported.

The head of Chechnya's pro-Russian administration, Akhmad Kadyrov, said that three suicide bombers were involved in the attack on Wednesday, which came just two days after a suicide bomber blew up a truck near a government building in the northern village of Znamenskoye, killing 59 people.

"Two of them had explosives belts and there was a third woman, who was around 50 years old and was killed in the blast," he told ITAR-TASS news agency. *AFP*

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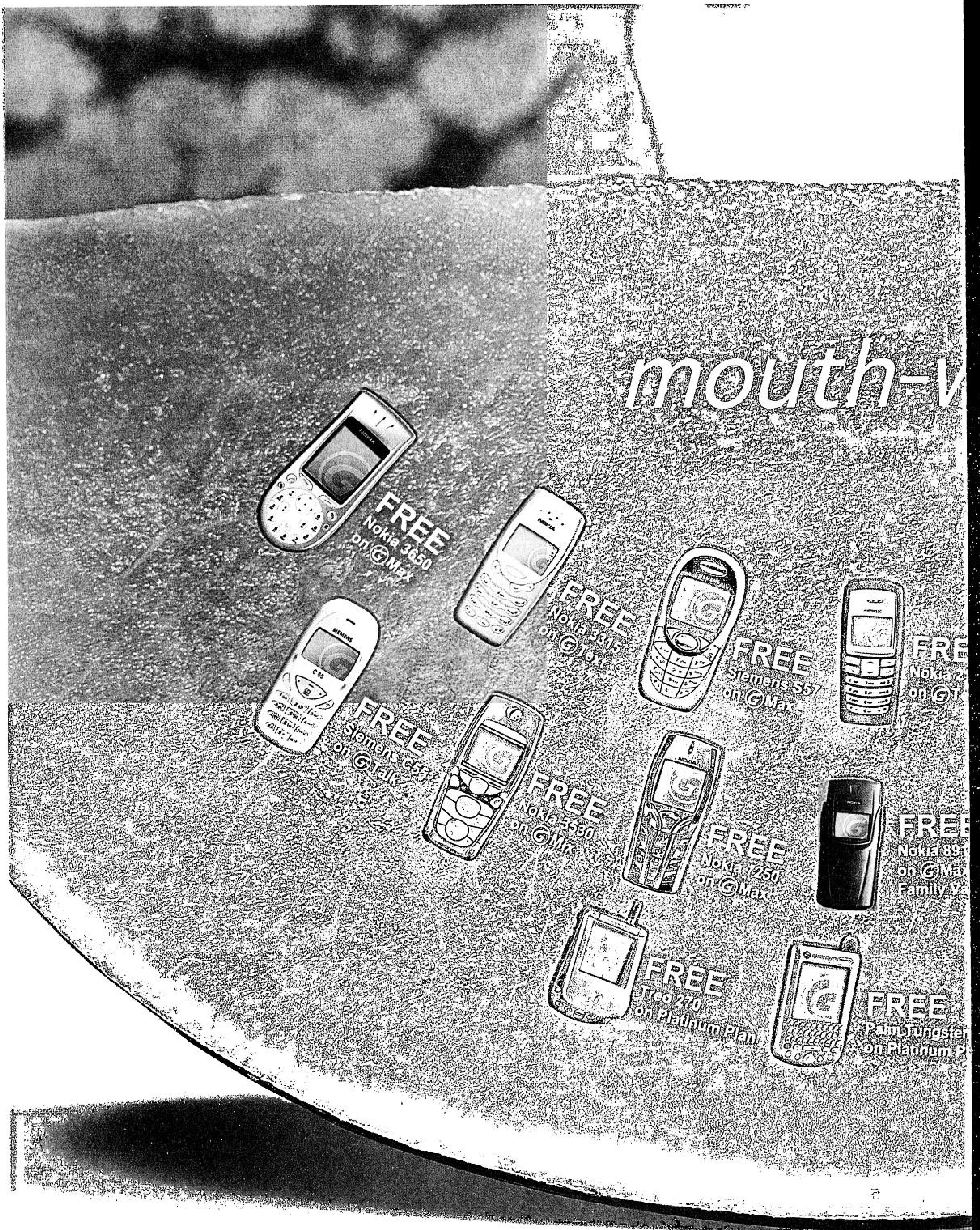
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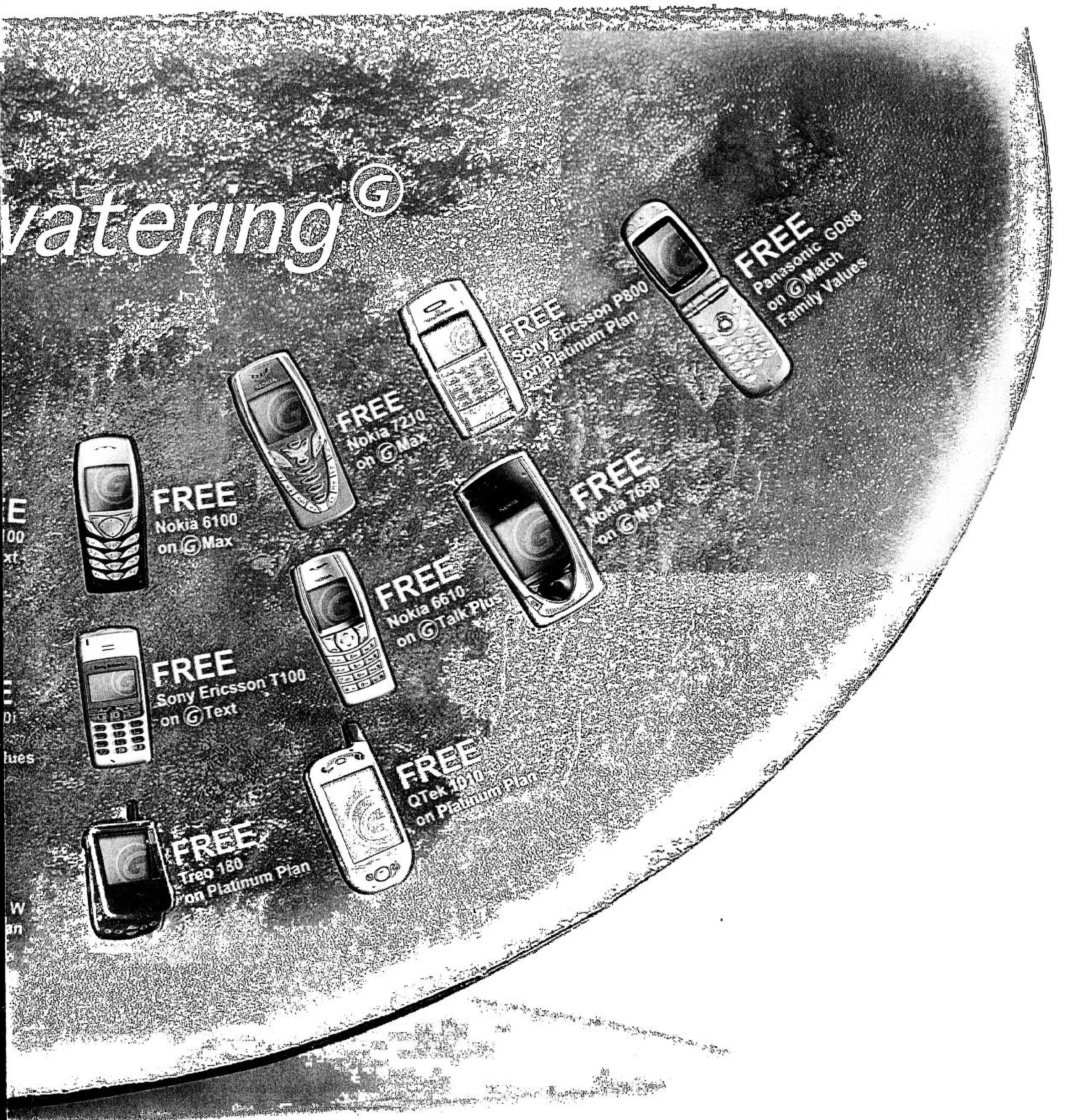
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US accused of mounting smear campaign on France

WASHINGTON—France railed Thursday against what it described as a months-long smear campaign, fueled by unnamed US officials, inaccurately linking Paris to Saddam Hussein in major US media.

"The methods used by those propagating this disinformation have no place in the relationship between friends and allies, who may disagree on important issues but should not engage in denigration and lies," Ambassador Jean-David Levitte said in a letter to US administration officials and lawmakers.

The diplomat cited a spate of media reports, sourced to anonymous administration officials, alleging cozy—and even illegal—commercial or military ties between Paris and the now defunct Iraqi regime.

"I would like to draw your attention to the troubling—indeed, unacceptable—nature of this disinformation campaign aimed at sullying France's image and misleading the public," said Levitte.

Speaking later here in an interview with local media, Levitte insisted on his concerns over newspapers' references to "officials or intelligence" sources.

"When the newspapers ... say from officials, or intelligence sources and so on and so forth, I have to believe that it is coming, yes, from officials or intelligence sources," he told WETA television.

Acknowledging the scale of the dispute that took place between Washington and Paris, Levitte said: "It's true that there was a big argument, but it was a fair argument, between the issue of peace and war."

"Now the war is over, we are ready to mend fences and work together with the United States as true allies and friends," he said.

"I ask only for a respectful debate between the US and France."

The White House and the Pentagon had earlier been swift to reject allegations of an orchestrated effort to spread disinformation about France, which had angered Washington with its opposition to the war on Iraq.

Deputy White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said: "There is, I don't think, any basis in fact to it."

"The United States and France have been at marriage counseling for the last 200 years. France is an ally; they're still friends. And despite our past differences, we are looking to the future," said McClellan.

"Certainly there's no such campaign out of this building," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who has not been shy about criticizing France. "I can't speak for the rest of government."

France also angered Bush by leading the international effort to block any new UN resolution authorizing the invasion, and top US officials recently met at the White House to discuss how to punish Paris for its actions.

In Brussels Thursday, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said it was time to clear the air between the two longstanding allies, confirming Paris had asked Washington to clarify relations between the two countries in the wake of the "disinformation" campaign.

"We cannot accept that unfounded criticism against France develops in this way," the minister told journalists after an EU meeting on the future of Europe.

Levitte's letter included a two-page list of anonymously sourced news stories he said were false, including a May 6 Washington Times story alleging that France helped top Iraqis elude US capture by issuing them them passports.

That story drew a fierce denial from the French Embassy.

But, while the State Department said it did not have information to support the accusation, the White House and the Pentagon did not deny it outright. *AFP*

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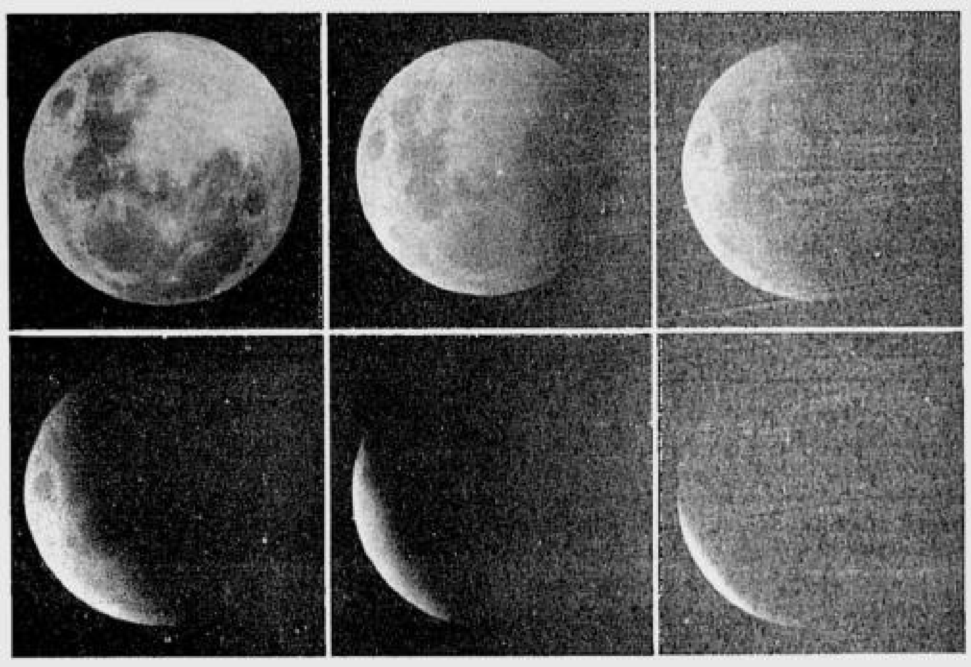


LUNAR ECLIPSE
Six photographs taken of the moon during a total lunar eclipse as seen from Sao Paulo, Brazil, the night of May 15. The eclipse was seen as total all over Latin America and a large part of North America. REUTERS

2003 Rafael M. Salas
Population and Development Award

The Man RAFAEL M. SALAS was born on August 7, 1928 in Bago, Negros Occidental and died on March 13, 1987 in Washington D.C. In the intervening 58 years, he worked tirelessly for the improvement of his native Philippines. He was the first Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), now United Nations Population Fund, with the rank of Undersecretary General.

In December 1968, Rafael M. Salas was appointed to head a group of concerned citizens who proposed the establishment of a Commission on Population, which would be tasked to formulate population policies and programs. And, as Executive Secretary to President Ferdinand E. Marcos, he was credited for having solved the country's perennial rice problem.

He dedicated his life for the betterment of humankind, particularly the most needy people of the earth, and always insisted that population programs are means to an end and that people are the center of such programs.

He is widely known as "Mr. Population" in the international population community. He brought together more developed and less developed countries, helping them to become aware of the extent to which they share an interest in population and development.

He will always be a great leader who made the difference, a tireless crusader for population, and a man who cared deeply about others.

The Award The Rafael M. Salas Population and Development Award (RMSPDA) aims to perpetuate the legacies of "Paeng" by honoring and giving due recognition to local government units, individuals and/or institutions for their outstanding achievement and contributions in the field of population and development; and generate support and participation in the implementation of the population management program.

This year, RMSPDA will be conferred to Provincial, Municipal, and City Government Units. At the regional level, awardee for each category will be presented with a token of commendation. At the national level, each awardee will be presented with an encased gold medallion, while plaques of recognition will be awarded to all other national nominees.

Who can be nominated? A provincial, city or municipal government unit may be nominated provided that it has been involved in the field of population and development for at least two (2) years prior to the awarding.

Who can nominate? Any individual or organization can nominate a Local Government Unit per category. Please take note that an LGU cannot nominate itself. Likewise, the Commission on Population central and regional offices cannot nominate an LGU.

Where can the forms be obtained? Nomination forms may be obtained from

- Regional Population Offices
- POPCOM Central Office
  Acacia Lane, Welfareville Compound
  Mandaluyong City
  Tel. Nos. 531-6978/531-6502
  Fax No. 533-5122
  mainmail@popcom.gov.ph
  http://www.popcom.gov.ph

Nominations must be submitted to the Regional Population Offices not later than **June 13, 2003.**

Commission on Population

Liposuction surgeon shown door

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—A New Zealand cosmetic surgeon who performed liposuction to a 52-kg (115-lb) woman with a history of eating disorders was struck off the country's medical registrar because he posed a threat to the public, a tribunal has said.

Warren Chan was already suspended from practicing medicine in New Zealand for three years after the Medical Practitioners' Disciplinary Tribunal found him guilty of six other charges of misconduct between November 1993 and November 2002, involving 15 female patients. He was also censured and fined.

In a ruling late Thursday, the tribunal removed Chan from the country's medical registrar—the maximum punishment—after finding him guilty of "disgraceful conduct." Chan has 20 days to appeal the ruling.

His whereabouts, however, were unknown. Chan moved to Australia after his license was suspended in 2002, but it is believed that he has left that country, where he has been banned from working in at least two states. He did not appear before the tribunal. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

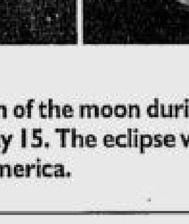
FBI terror fighting woes

WASHINGTON—Nearly six years before the Sept. 11 attacks, the Senate Judiciary Committee chair was told by his senior staff that the FBI and other government agencies had missed warning signs about the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and were ill-prepared to prevent future domestic terrorist attacks, memos show. Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, a Republican whose committee oversees federal law enforcement, approved holding investigative hearings about the information, but they never took place, the memos show. "The sharing of intelligence is lacking among federal law enforcement agencies," the December 1995 memo to Hatch stated, citing intelligence failures eerily similar to those exposed after the Sept. 11, 2001, suicide hijackings by al-Qaida. The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, also told Hatch that committee investigators had uncovered evidence that federal law enforcement had prior hints about the 1993 World Trade Center terrorist attack in New York City but failed to piece them together. "We have information that some instances, like the World Trade Center, could have been prevented if the relevant agencies had worked in concert with each otlier," the investigators wrote. "Simply stated, several different agencies had a small piece of the puzzle. *AP*

US envoy rapped for 'provocation'

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuela's government on Thursday sharply criticized US Ambassador Charles Shapiro for hosting an event at his official Caracas residence during which an impersonator used a puppet to ridicule President Hugo Chavez. Senior Venezuelan officials heaped criticism on the ambassador, calling him irresponsible. But they made clear they did not want the incident to affect ties with Washington. The US Embassy issued a statement saying "We regret if anyone felt offended." But it added the ambassador could not be held responsible for what any of his guests had said or done. Venezuela, the world's No. 5 petroleum exporter, is a leading supplier of oil to the United States. *Reuters*

'Untouchables' actor Robert Stack, 84



STACK

LOS ANGELES—Actor Robert Stack, who battled TV gangsters as the famed crime-fighter Eliot Ness in "The Untouchables" and helped bring real-life fugitives to justice as host of "Unsolved Mysteries," has died at age 84, his agent said on Thursday. The actor, who had recently completed chemotherapy and radiation treatments for cancer, was found dead of a heart attack in the living room of his Bel Air home by his wife, Rosemarie, when she returned on Wednesday from a charity show rehearsal, agent Merritt Blake said. *Reuters*

Israeli army kills five in Gaza raid

GAZA CITY—Israeli troops staged another massive incursion into the northern Gaza Strip Thursday, killing a 12-year-old boy and four other Palestinians. The United States meanwhile said both sides would have to be flexible if a proposed peace roadmap was to succeed. Four of the victims were killed in the initial raid, and a 15-year-old was shot dead in the afternoon as Israeli troops continued to occupy positions in the north of the strip. Another 16 Palestinians were wounded when about 50 Israeli tanks, accompanied by four bulldozers and two combat helicopters, launched their offensive at dawn. At least three of those hurt were in serious condition, medical sources said. *AFP*

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POST-POLL VIOLENCE

Village chief in Isabela town slain

ILAGAN, Isabela—A village chief, a known supporter of a losing congressional candidate in the May 12 special elections here, was shot and killed by seven armed men on Thursday night in Jones town, police said.

Juancho Soriano, 43, chair of Barangay San Vicente in Jones, was in his house when seven men, who were armed with short guns, fired at him, Senior Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, said.

The attackers left the house laughing after killing Soriano, campaign coordinator of congressional bet, Dr. Asuncion Abaya, in the fourth district special elections on May 12, Nario said.

The suspects fled on board a black pickup vehicle.

Police in Jones said they were looking into politics and vendetta as reasons behind the killing.

Reports show that Soriano was instrumental in giving Abaya, wife of the late Isabela Rep. Antonio Abaya, a big margin over her opponent, lawyer Giorgidi Aggabao, in the village in the elections. Aggabao eventually won.

Reports said Soriano was a political rival of Jones Mayor Florante Raspado, who supported Aggabao. Raspado succeeded Mayor Jesus Sebastian, who was gunned down on April 22 last year.

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy, Lakas provincial chair, urged Congress to look into the alleged irregularities.

Uy said some of the election returns were "statistically improbable." He said Lakas watchers noted a heavy turnout of voters in towns where the ballots were allegedly switched.

Some towns registered a high voter turnout of 86 percent while most towns had 40-50 percent turnout based on returns gathered by Lakas members, he said.

Uy, in a privilege speech in the House on May 15, accused provincial officials of involvement in the alleged irregularities, which, he said, ranged from ballot box switching and ballot tampering. The officials denied the accusation.

Abaya and her supporters held a motorcade-rally yesterday in the fourth district to thank those who supported her and condemn the alleged irregularities and the killing of Soriano. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 369 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Boy killed in theft of Cojuangco mangoes

BACOLOD CITY—A few sacks of mangoes have cost this boy's life.

Security guards in the farm of business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco in Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental on Sunday shot and killed a 15-year-old boy who was allegedly caught stealing mangoes.

Senior Insp. Placido Composa, acting Himamaylan police chief, identified the fatality as Jonathan Pagayunan, alias Tongtong, a resident of Barangay Tooy, Himamaylan, about 82 km south of this city.

Caught

In his report to Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, Negros Occidental police director, Composa said Pagayunan was killed on the spot after he was shot in the stomach with a 12-gauge shotgun by security guard Wilfredo Bernal, 52.

Based on their initial investigation, Composa said Bernal allegedly shot the boy after the security guard caught him stealing mangoes from Cojuangco's Hacienda Nieva in Barangay Tooy.

Investigators of the Himamaylan City Police found an empty shell of a shotgun from the scene.

Accident

But Safemasters Security Agency (SCA), whose guards secure Cojuangco's mango farms, claimed that the boy's killing was an accident.

In a statement, Ely Garcia, SGA general manager, said Bernal was sleeping under a tree in the middle of a mango plantation when he was awakened by people who were running and carrying sacks of stolen mangoes.

Garcia said Bernal fired warning shots and accidentally hit one of them.

About 10 others fled in different directions, leaving behind 11 sacks of mangoes and several pairs of slippers, he added.

Garcia said SGA officials Victoriano Alejo and Restituto Serran endorsed Bernal to the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to face investigation on the incident.

Composa said he coordinated with the victim's family who had not yet made up their minds what to do next. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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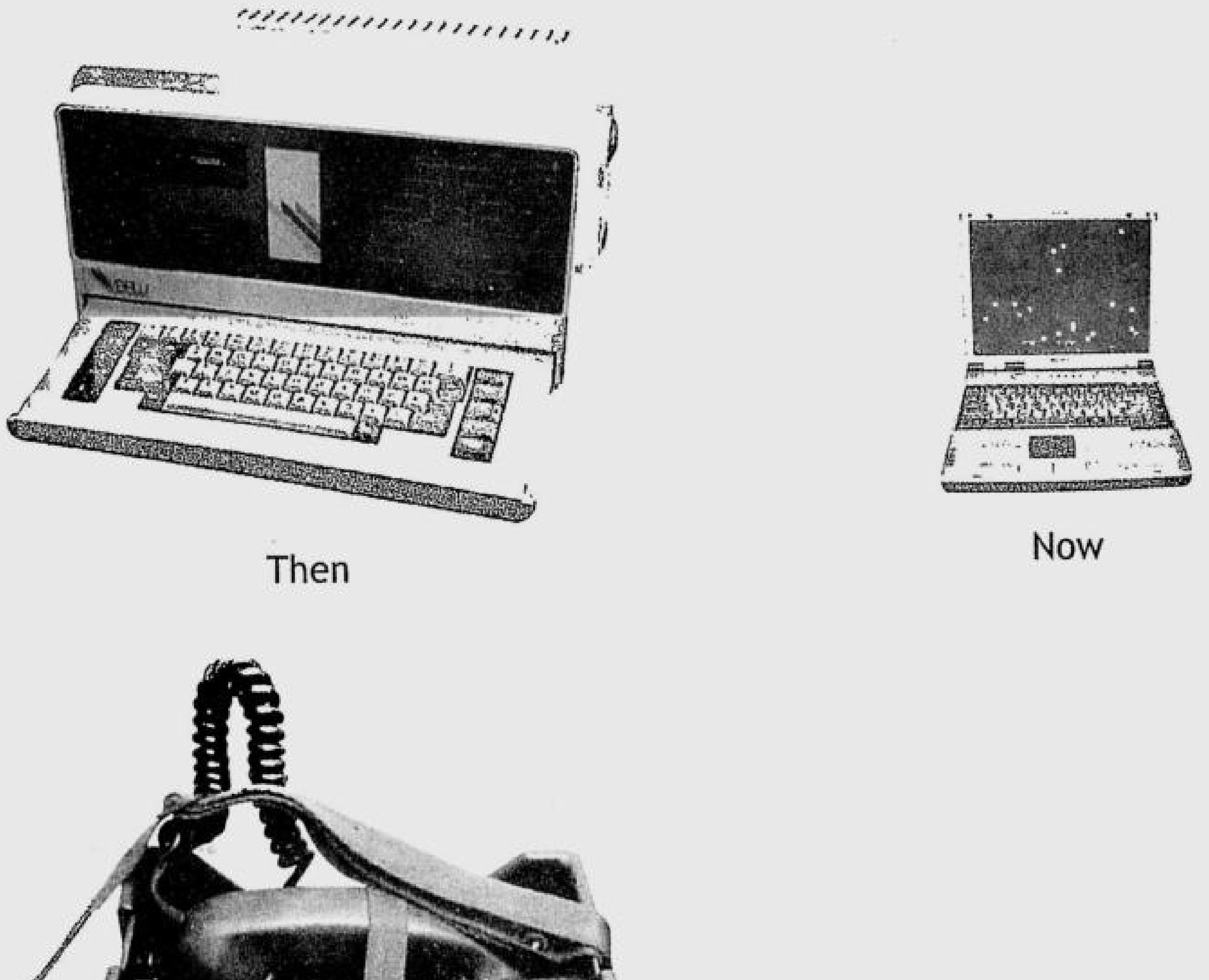

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4 killed in Davao landslide

DAVAO CITY—Four persons, three of them children, were killed when a landslide, triggered by heavy downpour, occurred in the hinterland village of Panganason town in Compostela Valley (COMVAL) on Thursday afternoon.

Killed were Edna Tubal, 34, and her three nephews Jerry Mahilong, 8, and the Vilvar brothers, Jun Mar, 13, and Jepson, 9, according to the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Southern Mindanao.

Massive

Antonio Cloma, OCD operations chief, said the landslide was so massive that it covered at least one-fourth hectare of land in Barangay King-king around 4:30 p.m.

"It's a huge landslide," Cloma said.

The incident buried alive the four victims, who were inside a shanty when the landslide hit the area.

As of yesterday, rescuers have only managed to retrieve Tubal's cadaver from the debris of soil and mud.

Residents told authorities the heavy rain had caused the loosening of the soil that lead to the landslide. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Mayor accused of sexual assault

CEBU CITY—A 28-year-old midwife has accused a mayor of a northern Cebu town of allegedly sexually assaulting and beating her up inside his office.

Helen Ronulo filed a complaint of sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, light physical injuries, grave threats and grave oral defamation against Mayor Emilito Abines of Oslob town.

Helen was with her father Venerando, when she lodged a complaint before the Office of the Ombudsman here on Thursday.

Abines denied the charges, saying Helen fabricated the allegations to cover up her "shameful behavior."

Venerando is a municipal councilor of Oslob, about 117 km south of this city. He and Abines belong to the local party, Alayon.

Helen has been a casual employee of Oslob for more than three years. She is assigned at the mayor's office.

In her affidavit, Helen said the assault took place around 3:30 p.m. last May 13 in Abines' office.

After a saying "green joke," the mayor went up to her table and touched her private parts. Helen said she parried the mayor's hand and pushed him away.

When the mayor continued his advances, Helen said she withdrew under her table where she kept crying, asked him to stop.

"*Ayaw* mayor, *away* mayor, *ngano gud kang manghikap sa akoa* (Mayor don't, why do want to touch me)," she allegedly told the mayor.

She tried to get out of the office, but Abines grabbed her breast, Helen said.

To defend herself, Helen said she punched Abines in the stomach, and went back under the table. Her action angered the mayor.

"He angrily kicked my left thigh four times, pushed my head to the divider and threw the puncher and several objects at me," she narrated.

The mayor took a plastic chair and threw it at her, she said. Had it not been for the intervention of Vercili Rendon, the municipal's personnel officer, Abines could have been more violent, Helen said.

Before leaving the room, the mayor insulted and threatened her, Helen said.

"*Ikaw nalang akong ilugon? Nisaka ka dire nanimaho kang hagonoy, patyon tika karon* (Why should I waste time on you. You came here with a foul smell, I'll kill you)," Abines allegedly said.

Abines, however, said Helen was just "making up stories to cover up her shameful behavior" when he called her attention for spreading her legs while sitting.

He said he did not touch the woman, and was surprised when she clambered up the table.

Abines said he held Helen's hands and asked her "not to behave that way" since they were in the office.

Helen suddenly resisted, causing her to fall to the floor, Abines said.

Abines, whose wife is abroad, said Helen punched his stomach and jaw. "As a normal reaction," he slapped her left arm.

He said he threw a chair out of anger but he said nobody was hit.

Abines said he was open to a dialogue with Helen and her father. He added he was even willing to apologize for slapping her.

He warned that he would also file libel charges against Helen if she decided to go to court. *Jhunnex Napallacan and Suzzane B. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Muslim refugees complain of discrimination in camp

ILIGAN CITY—Muslim refugees in Lanao del Norte have complained that they were being discriminated against by Christian evacuees and officials, the Civil Society-Forum for Peace (CSO-FP) here said yesterday.

The group also said Christians were very sore at Muslim refugees causing tension to rise in the evacuation centers there.

More than 20,000 people were displaced when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels attacked Kolambugan, Maigo and Munai town last month.

Muslim refugees told CSO-FP that the Christians were also blaming them for their plight, at times associating them with Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels.

Because of this, the CSO-FP wanted the military to deploy soldiers in various refugee camps in Lanao del Norte to prevent violence from breaking out between the two religious groups.

"This request (does not) concern the possible MILF infiltration among the evacuees but on the likely eruptive tension between Maranaos and Christians, who are both displaced by war," said Walter Alquiza, CSO-FP relief operations chief.

Alquiza said discrimination was notably high in evacuation centers in Munai and Maigo.

He said his group learned of the tension during a relief and medical mission to various evacuation centers in the province.

Alquiza said when they were about to leave, four Maranao women asked them for relief provisions. He said he told the women to go to the municipal hall so they could get a card, which would entitle them to receive food aid.

"But after a while, the Maranao women complained (that) the municipal officer would not give them the cards because they were Muslims," Alquiza told the INQUIRER.

Regina Antequesa, a senior CSO-FP officer said because of these incidents, a number of Maranao families opted to stay outside the evacuation camps.

"The evacuees in residential houses are mostly Maranaos who feel that they are not welcomed by the Bisaya (Christians) in the evacuation centers," Antequesa added. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cotabato, Maguindanao evacuation centers flooded

COTABATO CITY—The hardship of evacuees displaced by recent fighting in North Cotabato and Maguindanao was compounded by heavy downpour, which has become a daily occurrence, since two weeks ago.

At least 42 evacuation centers, with about 200,000 people, in the said provinces have been flooded because of the rains.

Sharifah Agar, a representative of the Community Family Service International, a World Bank funded non-government organization that looks into the plight of families in Central Mindanao, said 20 of the flooded refugee centers were located in Pagalungan, Maguindanao. Five of these were in Pagagawan, also in Maguindanao and 17 were in Pikit, North Cotabato.

Health officials admitted the flood might complicate the illness that many evacuees have been suffering from since the evacuations started in February.

They said health workers have been visiting them constantly because the risk of being exposed to a number of water-borne disease-causing organisms has doubled for the evacuees.

But Agar said refugees have been complaining. She said they were accusing the government of failure to address their condition, their needs for medicine, food, clothing, water and blanket.

Fatima Dayakum, 37, of Barangay Bago-Inged in Pagalungan, said the last time they received food assistance from the government was last month. *Rosa-May V. de Guzman and Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Death squad killings

DAVAO CITY —Suspected members of the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) here struck again killing at least two suspected criminals. The latest victim of suspected DDS members was Rene Hidalgo, a police character. Hidalgo's cadaver was found floating inside a compound in Agdao District here around 6 a.m. on Thursday. Earlier that day, police authorities found the cadaver of a still unidentified man in a grassy area in sitio Ubas in Catalunan Grande here. Police said the cadaver bore multiple bullet wounds and had been set on fire. Last week, four men were killed as soon as they stepped out of prisons here. Two motorcycle-riding suspects fired on them while they were riding a passenger jeepney. The police said they were still investigating the incident but residents believe the DDS was behind it. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte told Davaoeños not to believe in the DDS yarn, saying the killings could be the result of a squabble among some criminals. In 2002 alone, more than 10 suspected criminals, most of them drug pushers, have been killed by motorcycle riding suspects.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cop dies in accident

IROSIN, Sorsogon—A police officer was killed while three others were wounded after an owner-type jeep they were riding in accidentally bumped into a passenger bus in Barangay Gulang-gulang here, Tuesday. SPO3 Ireneo Realo was pronounced dead on arrival at the Irosin District Hospital while his wife Marianne, SPO1 Raul Gigo and wife Nenita were reportedly in critical condition at the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital. Insp. Edgardo Iglesia, Irosin police chief, said Realo and Gigo were on their way to attend a seminar at the police provincial headquarters in Sorsogon City. The bus driver, who surrendered after the accident, is now in the custody of the Irosin police.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Erratum

IN THE story "Poor hospital management puts SARS program at risk," which appeared in Across the Nation on May 15, the third paragraph read: "The alleged mishandling stemmed from the uncoordinated implementation of `action plans' coming from the offices of acting chief of hospital Dr. Gilbert De Leon and his assistant Dr. Alexander Alviar." The INQUIRER correspondent's sources, however, brought to her attention that the "assistant" that the story referred to should have been Dr. Magno Jose Valdez and not Alviar. Valdez is head of the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center's emergency and operating rooms and is one of the two assistants of De Leon. The other assistant, Alviar, is chief training officer and had nothing to do with the hospital's SARS program. We regret the error.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

TRB ADVISORY FOR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE NORTH

Aware of the impact on traffic of on-going rehabilitation works at the North Luzon Expressway, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) advises the public to plan their trips and be aware of alternative routes to the north.

"This is the first time that the North Luzon Expressway is being rehabilitated at such magnitude and we anticipate that vehicular traffic at certain segments being affected by the on-going works," TRB Executive Director Jaime S. Dumlao said.

Dumlao further advised that, "While tollway operator PNCC and the civil works contractor Leighton will do their best to manage traffic along the expressway, we hope the public will also plan their trips carefully and be aware of traffic conditions and alternative routes to take as possible contingencies."

To date, the crucial segment undergoing rehabilitation is the northbound section after the Candaba viaduct which is the 12 - kilometer stretch between the San Simon and San Fernando Interchanges. Frequent NLE travelers will recognize the northbound lanes of San Simon as the portion frequently submerged in floods during the typhoon season. Leighton explained it was necessary to mill both lanes, elevate these to the level of the southbound sections and complete the work program in less time than get delayed by the rainy season.

To avoid traffic buildup in the San Simon stretch, TRB advises motorists to consider alternative northbound routes through the Sta. Rita, Pulilan and San Simon Interchanges *(follow arrows on map)*.

- Travelers to Baguio, Tarlac and Pangasinan may use either the east or west sections of the NLE.
- For those with Clark, Pampanga, Subic, Zambales or Bataan destinations, exits towards the west section *(toward Mc Arthur Highway)* of the NLE are recommended.
- Subic, Zambales and Bataan travelers may also consider other forms of transport such as the Manila Bay Ferry.

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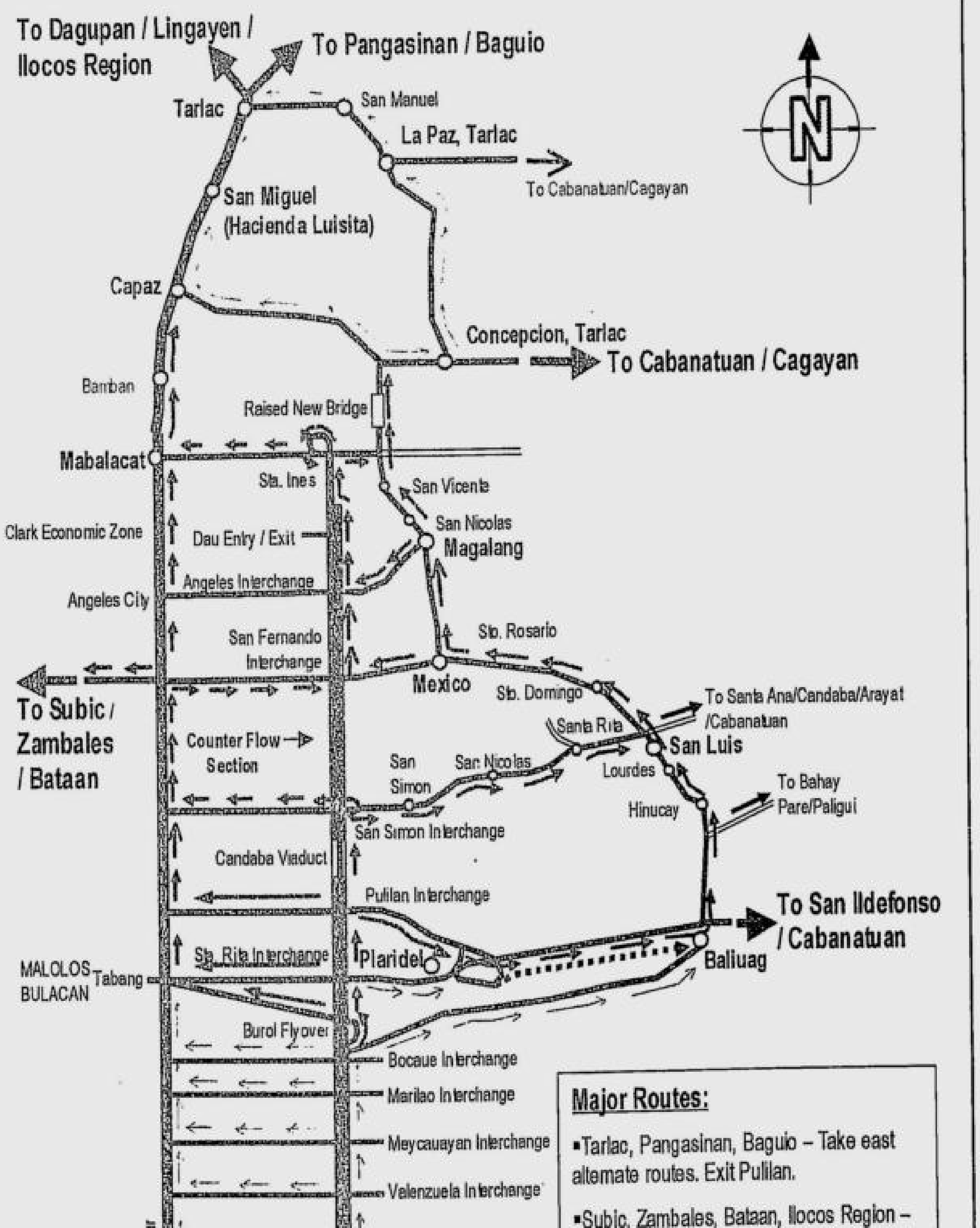
North Luzon Tollways Project
Suggested Alternative Routes to the North



Major Routes:

- Tarlac, Pangasinan, Baguio – Take east alternate routes. Exit Pulilan.
- Subic, Zambales, Bataan, Ilocos Region – Take west alternate routes. Exit Tabang, Sta Rita & Pulilan Interchanges.

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

A unique way of hosting island visitors

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Ajuy, Iloilo

ISLANDERS of Nasidman in Ajuy, Iloilo celebrated their tradition of welcoming strangers to their shores with a unique festival called "Pagsug-alaw" on May 6.

"*Sug-alaw*" means "to meet or welcome." For friends, it means thanksgiving for a safe journey home. For strangers, it means greeting them, providing them food and shelter and assuring them of safe passage.

In Nasidman, *sug-alaw* connotes a world of warmth and civility that dates back to pre-colonial times. This was why the island was named as such.

Nasidman came from the words "*nasiruman*" (dusk) and "*nasidlakan*" (dawn), coined by ancient seafarers plying the coasts of Iloilo.

Stories went that vessels, such as Chinese sampans and Spanish *lorchas*, often dropped their anchors off the island to replenish their provisions or disgorge cargoes at dusk. Then they set sail at daybreak.

The natives welcomed them by setting out their bancas to the moored ships to sell food, water and other provisions, as well as to trade.

Nasidman's twin island, Calabasa, was an outpost of the Spanish Navy, which built a lighthouse to warn ships of perilous rocks around the two islands.

Today, the ruins of the lighthouse and an eight-room brick house built in 1878 can still be seen. Beside the antiquity is a 40-meter solar powered lighthouse, which was built in 1998 and continues to serve as a beacon to vessels, drawing some weary sailors to Nasidman.

"Sug-alaw draws from the beautiful custom of the locals," said provincial board member Angel Briones, who helped organize the event.

"I hope that someday the festival would put the island on the tourism map," he added.

Warm welcome

The first Sug-alaw has all the ingredients of a unique festival in its incipient stages.

Visitors are asked to ride on the colorfully decorated outriggers led by a bigger boat carrying a local drum and bugle corps.

They are met by a welcome party at the Nasidman beach, carrying garlands of strung shells and small baskets laden with ripe mangoes and "*suman sa ibus*" (rice cakes) to be dipped in "*haleya*," a thick syrup made of muscovado sugar and coconut milk.

Young boys and girls regale the visitors by dancing, although their numbers are learned in schools and not those retrieved on the island.

But the "*hampang*" or games have a distinctively local flavor. There are races to determine the fastest swimmer and rower of small outriggers among the men.

The women's category of the rowing race draws the most cheers from the village, especially from children rooting for their mothers.

Boys take turns at the greased bamboo pole after rolling on the beach so that the sand neutralizes the oil.

Boys, men and women join the wrestling competition where losers are pushed out of the circle. Another way to lose is to have sand on the backs and arms, which can happen only by falling on their backs.

In the evening, there is singing and dancing around a huge bonfire called "*sad-sad sa hunasan*" (dancing at the beach).

Potential

Edwin Trompeta, tourism director for Western Visayas, said the Pagsug-alaw had the potential of becoming a popular cultural festival in the region.

Tourism is nothing more than loving a place, Trompeta said, and by reliving a tradition, the residents of Nasidman had shown that they had something to attract tourists in search of a unique travel experience.

But even before the Pagsug-alaw, Nasidman has been quietly drawing visitors because of its rich fishing ground. The island is whispered about among Iloilo sports fishers as an anglers' paradise.

Local officials led by Salvacion Molina, 74, the barangay chair, said the abundance of fish was due to the construction of artificial coral reefs in 1997. Fishers used to venture to the deep sea to fish because their fishing ground had been destroyed by cyanide and explosives.

Today, the fish have returned, thanks to the huge concrete cubes that have replaced the ruined corals, and the efforts to raise community awareness on the importance of protecting the seas.

The fishers are only allowed to use hook and line in fishing. The barangay council bans all other methods, limits the catch to five kilos a day per fisher, and charges P20 per angler as user's fee.

The town of Ajuy also passed an ordinance declaring Nasidman a fish sanctuary and, therefore, off-limits to commercial fishing. It also trains volunteers who want to become "fish wardens."

The fish conservation program has paid off. The 80 households at Nasidman have continued their traditional livelihood of fishing and drying sardines, locally known as "*tabagak*," which are shipped to the mainland daily.

The residents have also reforested their balding hills that had been stripped of trees for firewood and construction. They have now shifted to using cooking gas. By planting more trees, they hope that several years from now, the springs and deep wells will yield fresh water once more.

Nasidman leaders said they never realized that what they were doing was already tourism because they were simply making their island beautiful.

They were surprised that visitors started coming so they welcomed them as a tradition in Nasidman.

PAGSUG-ALAW FESTIVAL
NASIDMAN ISLAND
MAY 6-7, 2003

TWO SISTERS

RESIDENTS of Nasidman welcome their visitors in the first Pagsug-alaw Festival. At left, Nina Betita raises her paddle in victory after winning first place with Jessica Baria in the all-women boat race. MA. DIOSA LABISTE

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Angara not backing Lacson because of Zamora brods

From page A1

According to one source, the Zamora brothers prove disastrous to the campaign of "every candidate they work with."

"They did that to [the late Speaker Ramon] Mitra but worse to Erap [Estrada]," the source said.

But Palawan Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra, son of the late Speaker who ran for president in 1992, came to the Zamoras' defense.

"That is a false and serious accusation that should be explained further by Angara. Maybe he's just after the established businesses of Tito Manny in Palawan," said the young Mitra, assistant House minority leader and a member of LDP.

Representative Zamora was abroad and could not be contacted for comment. The INQUIRER sought the help of his secretary Angie Jose last Wednesday, and she promised to find a way to get in touch with him.

When the INQUIRER phoned again the following day, Jose said her boss was attending a wedding in a remote town in Morocco that could not be reached by phone. A call to the residence of Manuel Zamora also proved futile.

The young Mitra said no hanky-panky attended the Zamoras' handling of the campaign finances of his late father: "I don't think so. Whatever happened to Tatay, they all learned from that experience."

He also said his father and the Zamoras remained good friends even after the 1992 election. "They saw each other very often" until the Speaker died in 2000, he said.

Lacson, on the other hand, acknowledged to the INQUIRER that the Zamoras were his allies.

He said that if it were true that Angara was withholding support from him because of the Zamoras, he found it "heartwarming" that Angara did not dislike him personally.

But Lacson said it was "not reasonable" for Angara, his own party mate, to "transfer dislike" of the Zamoras to him, particularly in connection with his plan to run for president.

"If they have a personal fight, it should not be transferred to me," he said in Taglish.

Riotuba

Representative Mitra said Angara was asking the environment department to review the grant of an environmental clearance certificate to Riotuba, a nickel mining firm owned by Manuel Zamora.

Sources said the Mitras were beholden to the Zamoras because Riotuba was located in a barangay of the same name in the young Mitra's district.

But the congressman said: "That is not true. We have no connections with the company except that it is located in our district."

He added: "My party cannot dictate who my friends will be."

Representative Mitra was one of the LDP congressmen who earned Angara's anger for attending the April 29 launch of the "united opposition" and of Lacson's candidacy.

The others were House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico, Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla and Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, LDP secretary general.

The running feud between Angara and Ronaldo Zamora, colleagues during the Marcos regime, culminated in Angara's replacement of Zamora as executive secretary in the days leading to the People Power II that toppled Estrada. Angara was previously Estrada's agriculture secretary.

THE BROTHERS Zamora, Ronaldo (at left) and Manuel (above) are principal backers of Lacson's bid for the presidency to the consternation of Sen. Edgardo Angara (at right).

Zamora's version of his resignation was that he and his brother had seen the writing on the wall and had tried to convince Estrada to resign months before the then President was ousted.

Angara stuck with Estrada to the end and wrote the diary that became the Supreme Court's basis for upholding the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

One in the list

Angara said Lacson would be "one of those who will be considered by the party" as its standard bearer.

"Maybe he's an underdog in the party, but certainly he is deserving of consideration if only for the fact that he is nominally an LDP [member]," Angara said, adding:

"He has not served the party yet. We just lent him our name for the [past] election. [But] we treat him as a party mate."

Angara said he expected Lacson to withdraw in Cojuangco's favor once the businessman announced his availability for the election.

A congressman said Angara had dismissed Lacson as "*pulis lang yan* (a mere policeman)" not deserving of the highest office of the land.

Angara denied saying this. But he admitted that he asked Congressman Agapito Aquino not to attend the so-called launch of Lacson's candidacy.

He said he did not bar the others from attending.

Angara also quoted Aquino as saying that he gave Lacson his "tentative support" because the latter was the only LDP member who had declared his intention to run for president.

"How can he [Aquino] go there as secretary general when only the party can decide to commit [support]?" Angara said. "And indeed, his presence there had been misconstrued, [as shown by Lacson lawyer] Rufus Rodriguez boasting that the LDP secretary general was there."

Angara said no sanctions would be imposed on those who showed up for Lacson's launch because there was no formal nomination yet.

"But if they want the support of the party and the party leadership, they should be circumspect," he said.

'No secret'

Angara said he expressed his preference for Cojuangco during a meeting of the seven-member LDP executive committee.

"They know I will endorse Danding," he said. "That is no secret to them."

Angara said the LDP would go through the selection process in November, when party conventions are allowed to be held.

"Because of my support for [Cojuangco], I'm fairly confident that my party will go along [with me], he said. "There will be some who will not. It's perfectly all right. But when the decision is made, I will expect that my party mates will toe the line."

Angara said that when he made his preference known, it was only Minority Leader Padilla who differed with him.

He said the LDP would not break up because of the support for Lacson of a few of its members.

He noted that of the 15 LDP congressmen, only five showed up at Lacson's launch, and eight attended a dinner for Cojuangco last Monday.

Lacson said he got to speak with Angara last Monday and reminded the latter about the meeting between LDP senators and congressmen scheduled Wednesday night at the residence of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta.

The meeting was canceled because Angara, for the second time, begged off. He said he was to leave for the United States to attend a wedding.

Lacson reiterated that it was he who had sought the meeting after his "proclamation" by the "united opposition" as its standard bearer.

He told reporters later that there was a need for the LDP lawmakers to meet with Angara because it appeared that the problem within the party had yet to be ironed out.

"*Mukhang di pa ayos*," he said, but added that his intention was "not to rip apart the party but to solidify it."

Lacson said LDP congressmen with supposed gripes against Angara called him when they learned that the meeting had been called off.

He quoted them as saying that there was a need for such a meeting. He also said they resented Angara's supposed failure to consult them on certain matters.

Asked whether ouster moves against Angara were in the offing, Lacson said he had heard such talk.

Angara, however, said Wednesday that there was no need to meet with LDP lawmakers because they had been able to "solve" their problem.

Asia to keep borders open despite SARS

From page A1

Manda said.

But he said the delegates preferred that the travel of overseas workers be referred to their respective foreign departments.

Manda said "misimpressions" that SARS afflicted only Asians tended to discriminate against Asian workers.

"We see it more as a diplomatic issue," he added, and voiced apprehension over the possibility of overseas Filipino workers being denied entry in Middle East countries where the resolution has no strength.

Representatives of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations were joined by airport officials from China, Japan and South Korea at the two-day forum held at the Holiday Inn in Clark. The forum was a follow-up to last month's Asean summit in Bangkok that was devoted to SARS.

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) says SARS has caused more damage to the global airline industry than the 9/11 attacks in the United States in 2001 and the war in Iraq combined.

The Associated Press quoted Iata Asia-Pacific regional director Thomas Andrew Drysdale as saying that the association expected a loss of US$10 billion this year.

Other measures

Another measure in the three-page resolution "advises [departing passengers showing symptoms of SARS] to postpone travel and seek medical attention."

But this actually means that these passengers will not be allowed to board the plane and leave the country of origin, Manda said.

The other measures in the resolution include:

- The standardization of health declaration cards for departing and arriving passengers to help authorities obtain complete information, including contact tracing. This will be enforced starting on June 15.
- The implementation of temperature screening for departing and arriving passengers before or on Aug. 15.

Manda said the delegates from Japan "excused" themselves from committing to this measure until after consultation with their government.

- A recommendation to customs officials to "give priority clearance" to medical equipment and supplies to be used to fight SARS in Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea and China, in keeping with World Health Organization guidelines in managing suspected SARS patients.
- The exchange of information for contact tracing.

The delegates said the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations agency that has supervision over airports, would be informed of the measures contained in the resolution.

Manda said more than 50 percent of these measures were already in place in the Philippines, Singapore and Hong Kong.

While penalties for breaches of the measures are not specified, Manda said the resolution was "forceful" because it followed the mandate of the Bangkok Asean summit on SARS.

He said Asian health ministers were to meet in June to further discuss the resolution.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit described the resolution as an "excellent" document. "It actually formalizes a unified approach in all airports within the [Asean] countries and Japan, Korea and China," he said.

Dayrit also said a panel of health experts had pronounced the two new SARS suspects in the Philippines as clear of the deadly virus.

"One is well, the other is sick and still hospitalized for cancer treatment," he told the INQUIRER at the close of the Department of Health's national staff conference in Clark.

Dayrit said the two—a 34-year-old woman who returned from Taiwan in the first week of May, and a 63-year-old businessman who came from Singapore in the second week of April—had not infected anyone because they were both quarantined.

He said even the 80-year-old Filipino-American who visited the Philippines for a month and was now back in South Korea was not a SARS patient.

The Filipino American is being treated for bacterial pneumonia and has shown signs of recovery, he said.

Dayrit said the two "imported" cases had "no effect" on the May 20 deadline that the Philippine government had set to be stricken from the WHO list of medium-risk countries.

Ireland bars RP kids from Special Olympics

From page A1

"We're absolutely shocked by this decision which came out of the blue," said a spokesperson.

Irish Special Olympics chief executive Mary Davies said she was "very surprised and disappointed" by the decision and hoped they could persuade the minister to change his mind.

"We wonder why should Special Olympics and the athletes coming from those affected countries be singled out over and above any business person, tourist or student that comes here between now and the time of the games?"

The athletes from SARS-affected regions had previously agreed to go into quarantine before travelling to Ireland as a precautionary measure.

Ireland has had one case of probable SARS over seven weeks ago involving a man who returned from Asia.

No official word yet

Pabst said the Philippine team still had to receive official word from the organizing committee on the Irish government's ban.

"We are quite surprised because as far as we know the Philippines had been declared SARS-free by the (World Health Organization), but in the list of the Ministry of Health of Ireland, the Philippines is on the list of SARS-contaminated countries," he said.

"Oh my God, we don't even have a SARS epidemic here," said Special Olympics Philippines president Carmel Almendrala. "The news say the WHO will strike off the Philippines from the list of countries infected with SARS; we don't see any reason why we should be banned."

The Filipino delegates to the Special Olympics are set to leave the country on June 15 to give them time to acclimatize. Their uniforms, visas and plane tickets are ready.

The delegation has five coaches, two officials and 21 athletes.

Pabst said the Special Olympics Philippines was calling a board meeting today to discuss the developments in Ireland and whether the country will still send the athletes there.

"Our delegates might be embarrassed at the airport in Ireland," said Pabst.

"These are mentally challenged Filipinos with mental IQs of 4- to 11-year-olds. We don't want them being embarrassed there unnecessarily," he said.

With reports from Reuters, AFP

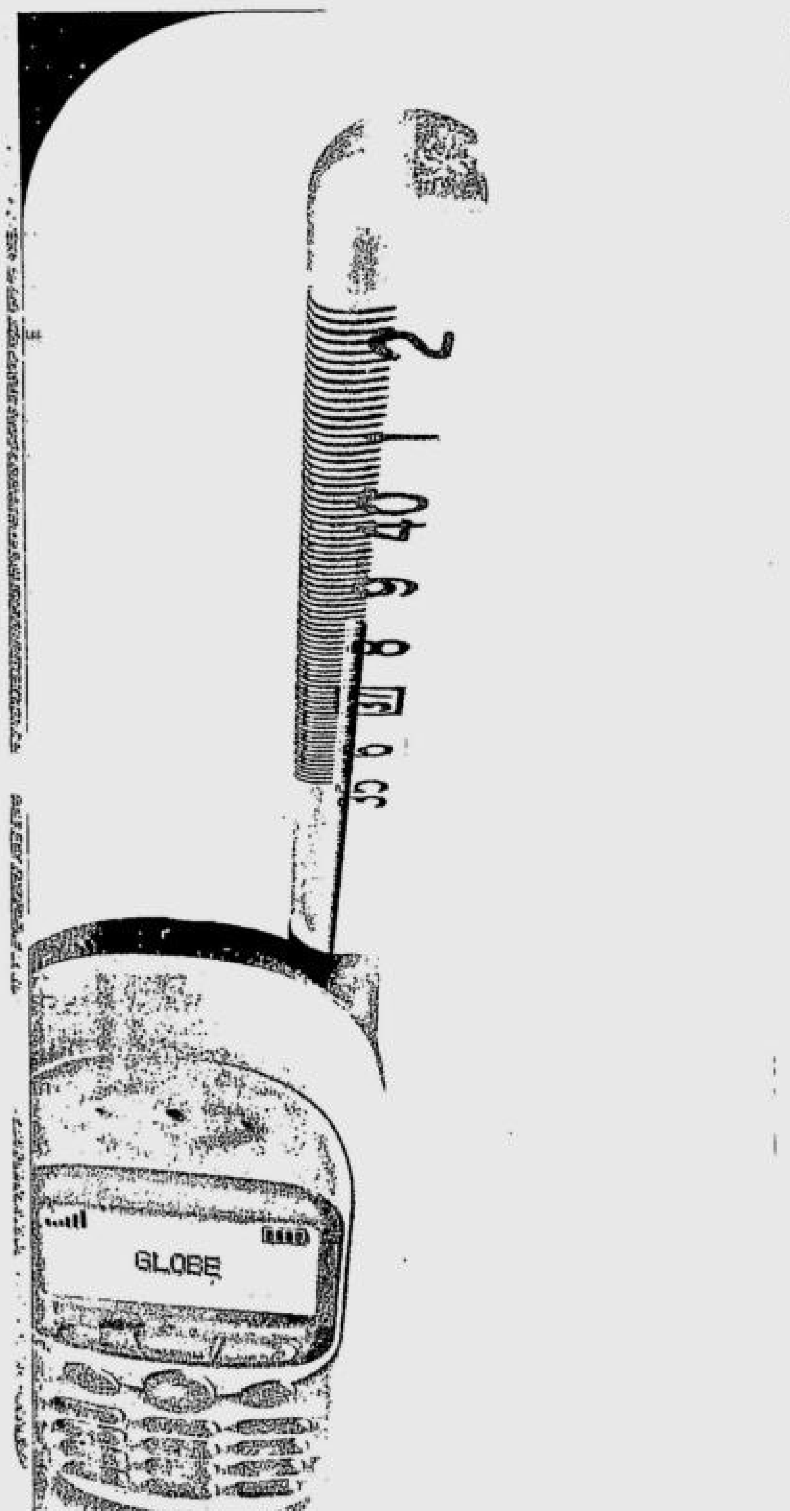
SARS tests flawed, time consuming, says health expert

PARIS—The current tests for detecting the SARS virus are time-consuming, flawed and should not be considered a tool for combating the spread of the disease, a UN health expert warned.

Nations hit by the SARS epidemic are rushing to distribute kits and machines to labs, to test samples taken from patients suspected to carry the virus. These are useful but are not the simple and accurate dipstick tests routinely used by doctors to quickly check for common diseases and which are urgently needed in the effort to detect SARS carriers, the specialist said.

There are three kinds of tests at present: two of them test for the presence in blood of antibodies to the virus, and the other, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), amplifies a fragment of DNA to search for the virus' genetic "fingerprint."

All require a laboratory and trained staff as well as time to carry out the test, said Klaus Stohr, a project leader at the department of communicable disease at the World Health Organization in Geneva. AFP



SARS in check

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Airport bully

By Juliet Javellana

LOS ANGELES (via PLDT)—Acting Press Secretary Milton Alingod got a taste of extra-sensitive security at US airports when he accidentally bumped an American customs officer while retrieving luggage at the Tom Bradley International Airport here.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

When Alingod's cart hit the customs officer, the man demanded to see Alingod's customs declaration form. He then directed Alingod to the agriculture section where those suspected of carrying prohibited agricultural and meat products are inspected.

Alingod was separated from his companions, Press Undersecretary Carmen Suva and members of the government and private media covering the state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The customs man asked Alingod to go to the far end of the customs area marked AG (agriculture), where there was a long line of passengers whose *balikbayan* boxes and bags were being opened for possible contraband items.

His companions were allowed to go straight to the airport exit.

After standing in line for quite some time, Alingod was approached by another man who looked into his customs declaration. Finding no problem, he allowed Alingod to simply leave the airport.

Today reporter Mia Gonzales was also summoned while still at the Naia terminal 2 because she had the same family name as a suspected terrorist from Colombia wanted by the United States after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Bush prepares star welcome for GMA

From page A1

cocktail reception after the Mass and later with the Filipino community leaders.

Brief respite

The President's trip, which includes stops in New York and San Francisco, will provide her a brief respite from troubles back home.

A rash of bombings and other attacks in parts of Central Mindanao, home to a 30-year-old Muslim separatist insurgency, has left more than 210 people dead this year and led to worries that the violence could spread.

Security concerns have scared away would-be investors. The military needs a major upgrade. The SARS scare isn't helping, either.

But the hoopla isn't expected to do much for her personal political fortunes, after she announced that she won't run in elections next May.

The President is expected to lobby Bush for subcontracting deals in Iraq for Philippine companies, with a focus on construction of water systems, ports, bridges and airports. The Philippines is hoping to get jobs for up to 100,000 Filipinos in Iraq.

She also is expected to push for greater access to US markets and lower tariffs for Philippine products, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the other day.

"We are negotiating hundreds of millions (of dollars) in privileges, and the final negotiation will be on the presidential level," Roxas said.

With members of her Cabinet, the President will have a roundtable meeting with the chief executive officers of 10 top American companies to discuss trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines.

Meetings are also scheduled with Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and officials from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the International Finance Corp.

Ms Macapagal and Bush are also expected to discuss possible military assistance packages—US military aid this fiscal year is slightly over $100 million—and a joint counterterrorism exercise planned for later this year to help the Armed Forces finish off the Abu Sayyaf group.

The government has blamed the recent bombings on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the country's largest separatist movement.

Business meetings in NY

The President is expected to read her first statement during the Mass, which will be attended by representatives of the large Filipino-American community in the Greater Los Angeles area. The number of community members is estimated at 371,421.

After spending the night in Los Angeles, the President departs on Sunday for her 3-day state visit to Washington where she is scheduled for a 45-minute meeting with Bush on Monday and will oversee the signing of various government and public sector agreements.

The trip will also take her to New York for some business meetings and interviews with the American media.

The Fil-Am soldiers who served in Iraq will also take center stage during the visit when they join President Macapagal and veterans of World War II in a dinner to be hosted by the Filipino-American community in Washington.

"The state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo begins a new chapter in an old and intriguing story between the Philippines and the United States," Foreign Secretary Blas Ople told reporters en route to LA.

"We start our relationship afresh based on mutual respect, sovereignty and concerted action against international terrorism," Ople added.

The President will be accompanied by First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., her key Cabinet officials and business leaders. *Associated Press with reports from Juliet Javellana in Los Angeles, CA (via PLDT)*

Don't forget 'dying veterans,' 'acting' president tells GMA

By Norman Bordadora and Gerald G. Lacuarta

IN an open letter to the President on the eve of her state visit to the United States, Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to "remember our hungry and dying veterans as you have dinner with US President George W. Bush."

Guingona, who will have charge of the government while the President is abroad, said Ms Macapagal should push for the passage of long-pending legislation that would provide Filipino World War II veterans with the same privileges US veterans enjoy.

Guingona urged the President to bring the Filipino-American Equity Bill to Bush's attention.

"(With) the Fil-Am Equity Bill which seeks to rectify a wrong, there is hope. We should do all we can to see that hope be attained."

Greenpeace International and the Peoples Task Force for Bases Cleanup also called on the President to raise the issue of the clean up of former US military installations in the Philippines, such as the former Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, with Bush.

"It should be a topic for discussion. If she would ask for concessions from the US, one of these should be a comprehensive assessment and total clean up of the former bases by the US government," said Von Hernandez, task force chair and Greenpeace Asian toxic campaign coordinator.

Hernandez said the President should also negotiate compensation for all victims of military toxic waste contamination, more than 100 of whom have already died in areas near the bases in Pampanga and Zambales.

Meanwhile, Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario said the President is expected to bring home $100 million in economic development grants and another $100 million in military assistance.

"These economic and military packages show the integrity of the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the US," Del Rosario told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The $200 million total already includes the $30 million in economic aid and another $30 million in foreign military financing that the country will receive as a member of the "coalition of the willing" in the US-led war against Iraq.

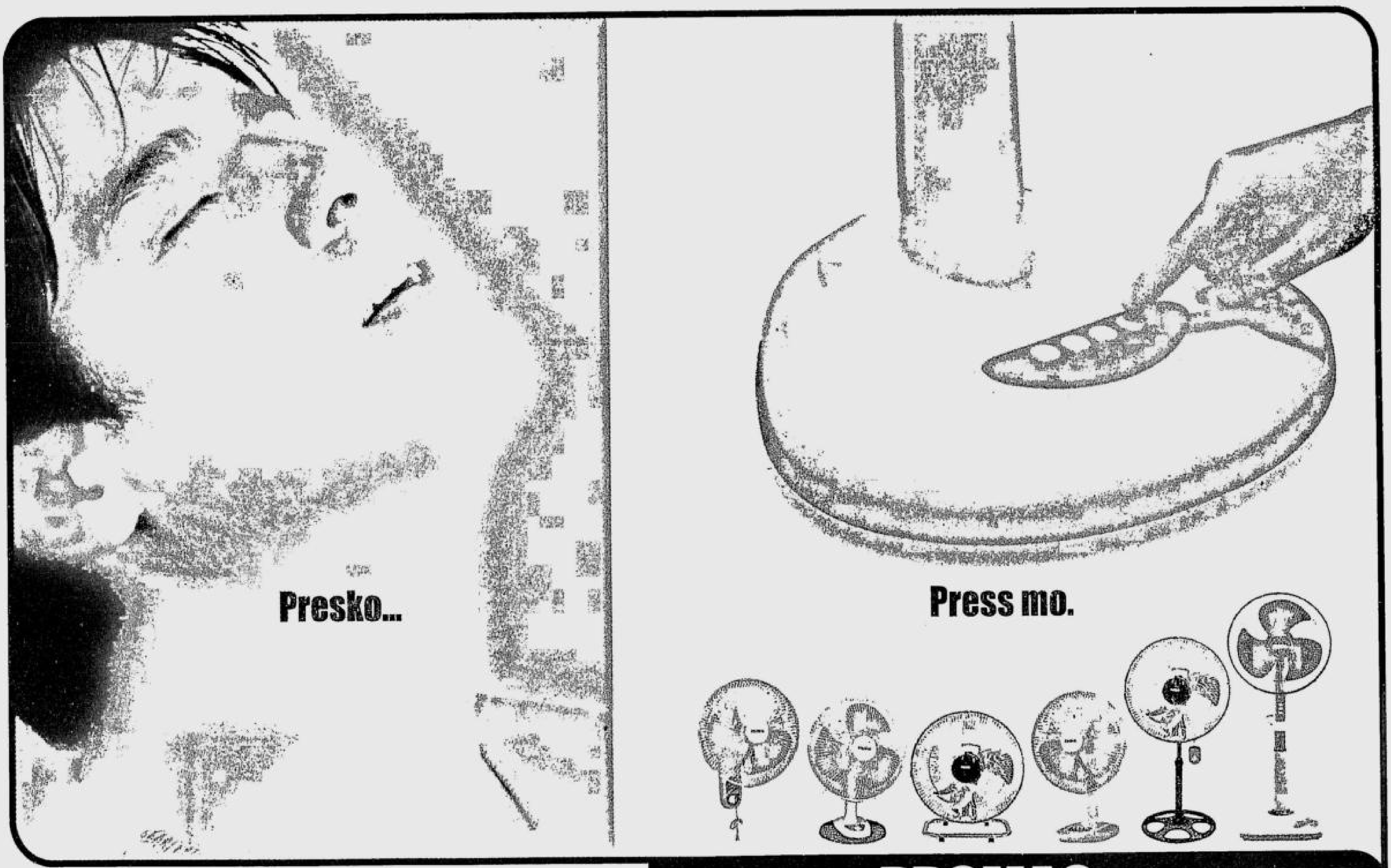
"The Philippine' share in the economic package in the supplemental budget is one of the biggest single insertions in the appropriations. This just goes to show the (effects of the) leadership of our President here," Del Rosario added.

Del Rosario said that most of the $100 million development package would be allocated for infrastructure and livelihood projects in Mindanao while the other $100 million will be allocated for counter-terrorism measures around the country.

In Malacañang, the chief of the Presidential Management Staff said Guingona will serve as the "acting President" during Ms Macapagal's state visit.

"As far as I know the Vice President will be in charge of the government once the President is away," Secretary Silvestre Afable said in a briefing.

Afable also said Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz was designated "acting Executive Secretary," because Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo is joining President Macapagal-Arroyo's party. *With a report from Carlito Pablo*



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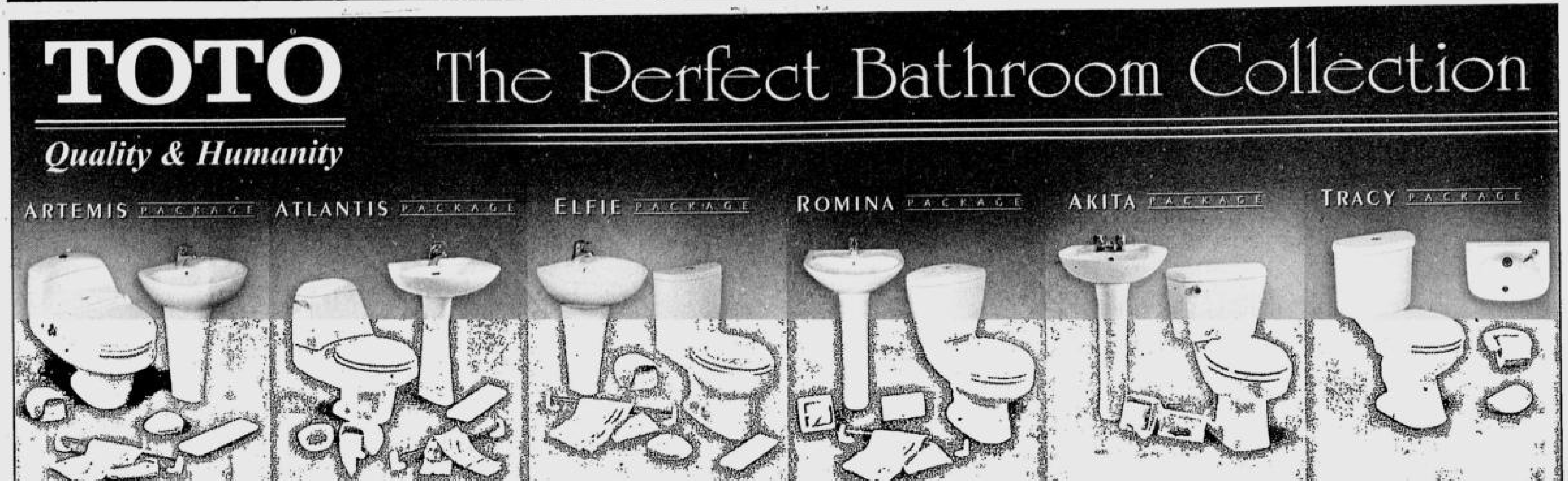

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The Dean is dead ...

From page A1

and Ricardo. Malay's wife Paula Carolina died in 1993.

His body now lies at the Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. The family has scheduled cremation rites on Monday.

Malay was the journalist's journalist. His life as a journalist spanned the Quezon presidency all the way to the Cory years.

He taught future journalists at the UP and the Far Eastern University. He had a great respect for the profession and pushed his students *(Story on Page A1)* to exactitude and excellence, and rebuked those who were unethical and unprincipled.

It was at the UP where Malay spent more than 20 years teaching English, journalism and Rizal courses. In the early '70s, he served as UP's Dean of Student Affairs. From then on, the title stuck. He was forever known as The Dean.

Armando Jr., now dean of the University of the Philippines Asian Center, said: "He had his heart in the right place and was always for the underdog. He was a fearless crusader for various causes and a professional in his job."

UP's True institution

UP President Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo called Malay "a true institution of UP."

Even in old age, Malay never lost his interest for current events, recalled Ocampo. "He always wanted to understand deeply complicated issues like the US-led war on terrorism. Dean Malay enjoyed intellectual discussions over the dinner table."

According to Yvonne Chua, one of the authors of Malay's biography "Armando J. Malay: A Guardian of Memory,": "There were so many things about him that won't fit in one book. Even what we wrote did not do justice to the kind of life that he lived."

Born in Tondo

Malay was born in 1914 in Gagalangin, Tondo, to writer Gonzalo Malay and Carmen de Jesus. He was already involved in journalism as a high school student, when he wrote the column "We" in the Torres High school paper, the Torres Torch.

The Dean went to UP in 1931 becoming editor in chief of the Philippine Collegian in 1934. After graduating in 1935, he became a reporter for The Tribune. Four years later, he wed Paula Carolina Santos of Bulacan.

Malay became a Unesco fellow at the Centre d'Enseignement Superieur du Journalisme in Strasbourg, France, and an AID fellow at the California Polytechnic and Ohio University in Ohio.

Malay spent his first decade as a professional journalist at the Tribune. He experienced restraint during the Japanese occupation. It was the last time he allowed any such restraint over his work.

No to Quirino

After the war, he put up another daily, the Manila Chronicle, along with the Tribune's former staff. The newspaper was later acquired by the Lopezes. He left it when it started to promote the political career of Fernando Lopez, vice president to President Elpidio Quirino. Malay did not approve of Quirino. He once wrote a column titled "The achievements of Quirino" and left the rest of the column blank.

The title of his Chronicle column, "With a Grain of Salt," was characteristic of Malay's take on official pronouncements.

After leaving the Chronicle, he took the editorship of the post-war Daily Mail. His columns also appeared in the Star Reporter, Evening Chronicle, Weekly Women's Magazine, the pre-martial law Malaya, Philippine Review, Manila Times and many others.

He stayed at the Times newsdesk for 16 years, and retired in 1966.

Martial law

His stint at the UP ended during the First Quarter Storm in the early '70s. But he did not leave without taking the cudgels for the students who put up barricades to protest the dictatorship. Malay considered student activism as comparable to the Cry of Pugadlawin in 1896. The Cry was unlawful to the Spanish authorities, but to the Katipuneros and to generations thereafter, it was patriotism of the highest order.

His encounter with strongman Ferdinand Marcos was not confined to the campus. He landed in jail in 1982 after Marcos charged him with subversion for his columns in the "We Forum," a fortnightly that was critical of the Marcos' martial rule. The rest of the staff of the publication joined him in jail and the paper was shut down.

Street parliamentarian

After the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, he emerged as an active street parliamentarian particularly advocating the restoration of press freedom.

He fought for political detainees and organized and chaired Kapatid, a nongovernment organization composed of families and relatives of political detainees.

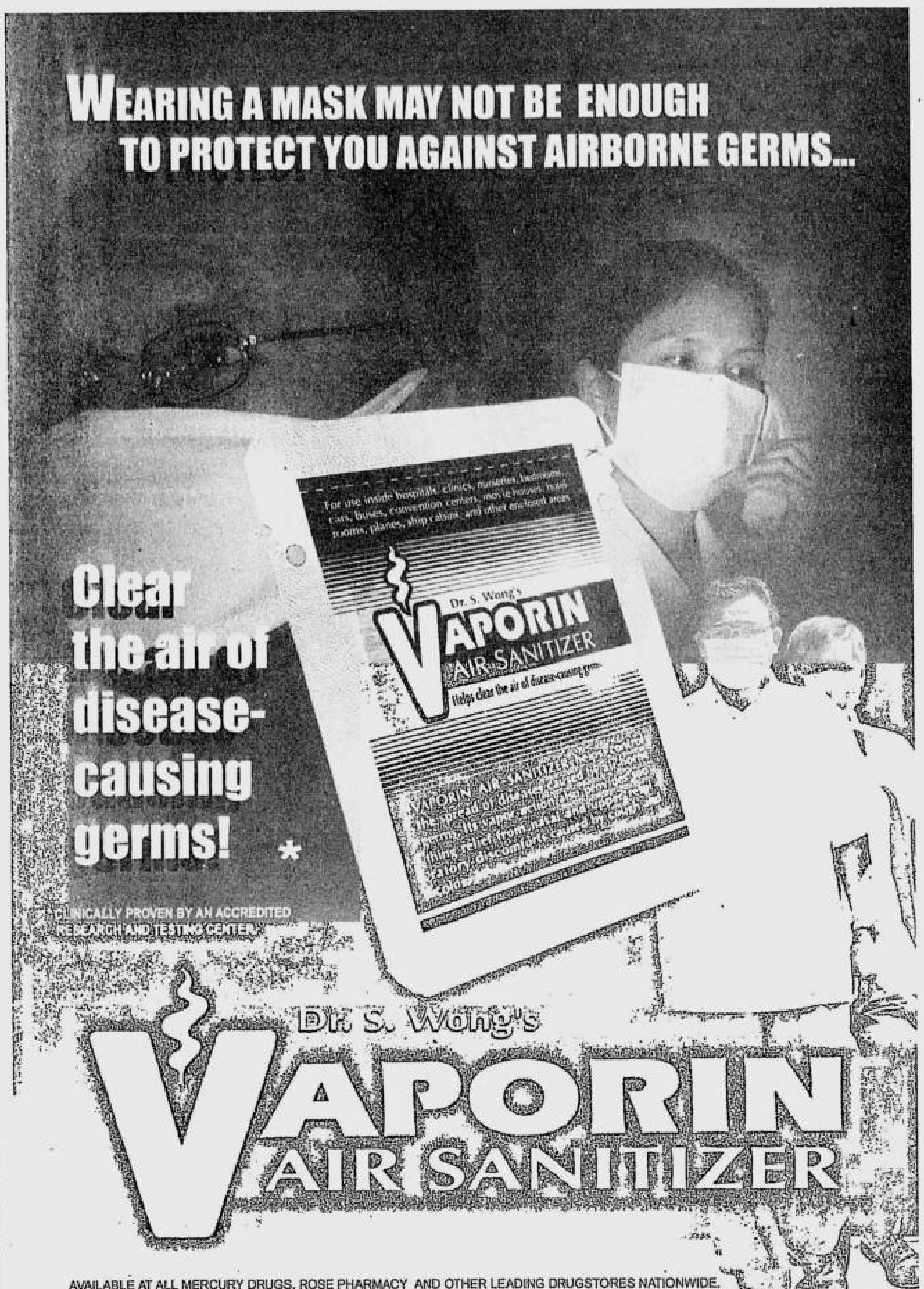
He also joined the Council of Leaders of the National Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy. From 1990 to 1992 he was vice chair of Selda, an organization of former political detainees.

Awards

In 1990, Malay received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Press Club. Four years later, he was named one of the 10 Outstanding Filipinos. In 2001, the Metrobank Foundation handed its first Outstanding Journalists' Awards to Malay along with Jessica Soho and Sheila Coronel.

Malay also received the "Distinguished Leadership in Journalism" award.

Malay was a compulsive note-taker and kept everything he wrote. After his retirement from the UP, he donated his manuscripts, notes and photos to the UP System Library, the largest personal collection of any one person. Included in those notes was an unfinished autobiography titled "The Rushing Years."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His students Malay's monument

From page A1

because heartless editors would usually cut your story from the end up if they were short of space.

A reporter could not just write that an unidentified man saved a child from the burning building, Dean Malay would say. Make an effort to get the man's name, and get it right because that might be the one and only time the man would be in the news.

He came to class the morning after Neil Armstrong's moon landing and, in his booming voice, asked how many of his students watched the event on live TV. Shame on you, he said to the students who failed to do so. How could they think they wanted to be journalists, he said, if they did not even have the curiosity to watch something as historical as man's first landing on the moon? It was a first time, Malay said, and there was nothing like watching it the very instant it was happening.

As often as he told hilarious stories about the powerful and those who covered them in the news, he pounced on students who did not get the story right.

Malay liked to read his students' writings and dissect them before the class. "His irrepressible humor blunted the sting of even the most devastating putdown," said Lifestyle copyeditor Linda Bolido.

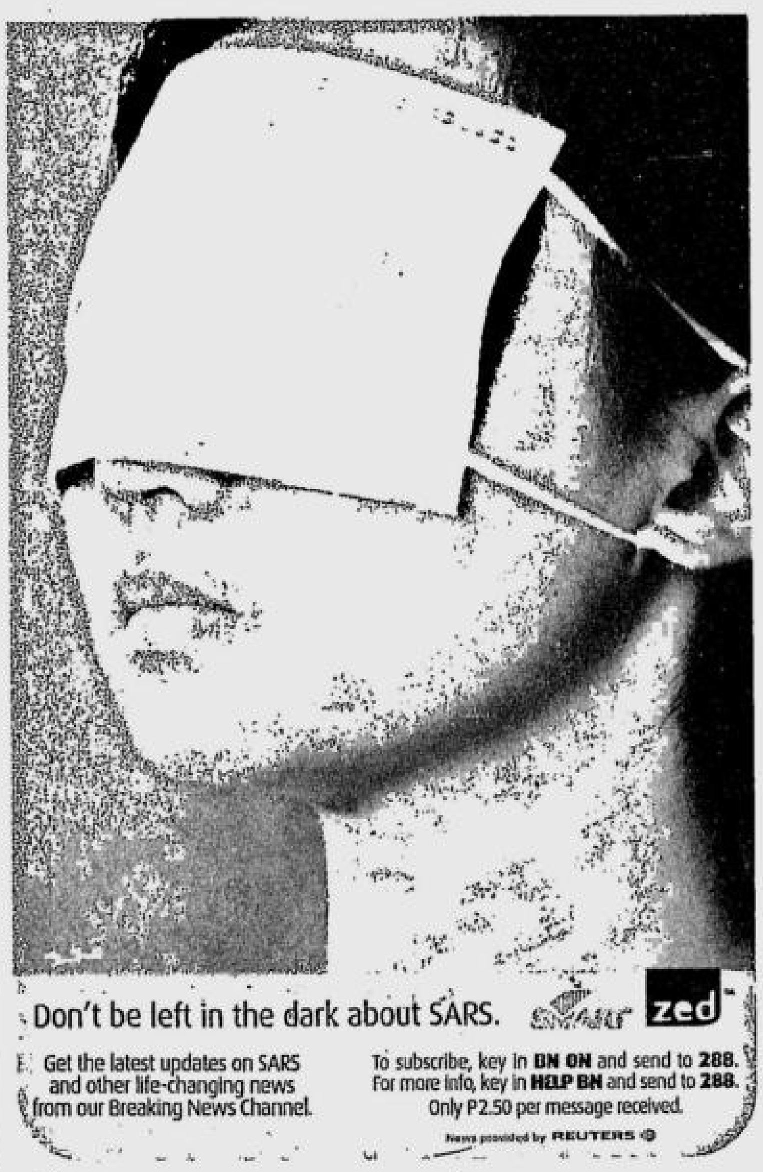
Former Pinoy Times publisher Vic Tirol said Malay, "because he was always decent, well-groomed and dignified," gave him a good impression of journalists. "I was drawn more to journalism because of his many stories and anecdotes."

"The things I learned from him helped me through my newspapering career," said PDI Northern Luzon bureau chief Rolly Fernandez with whom Malay shared a passion for stamp collecting. Two days before Malay's death, Fernandez said, he got the dean's collection of First Day Covers and mint stamps. "A gift I'll truly treasure," he added.

"From Dean Malay I learned to be a professional with a sense of outrage," said columnist and journalism Prof. Luis Teodoro.

PDI senior desk person Rosario Garcellano said Malay "gave the lie to the notion that radical thought is only for the young. In that sense, he was even more vigorous than many of the so-called angry young men who passed through his classroom, the ones who dropped the pretense early on."

UP vice chancellor for student affairs Tessa Jazmines said Malay taught her to love reading the news. "I used to find current events boring. But one sem under Prof. Malay changed all that. Now I entertain myself with newspapers and news magazines."



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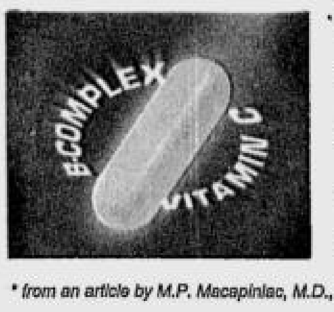

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* from an article by M.P. Macapinlac, M.D., Ph.D.

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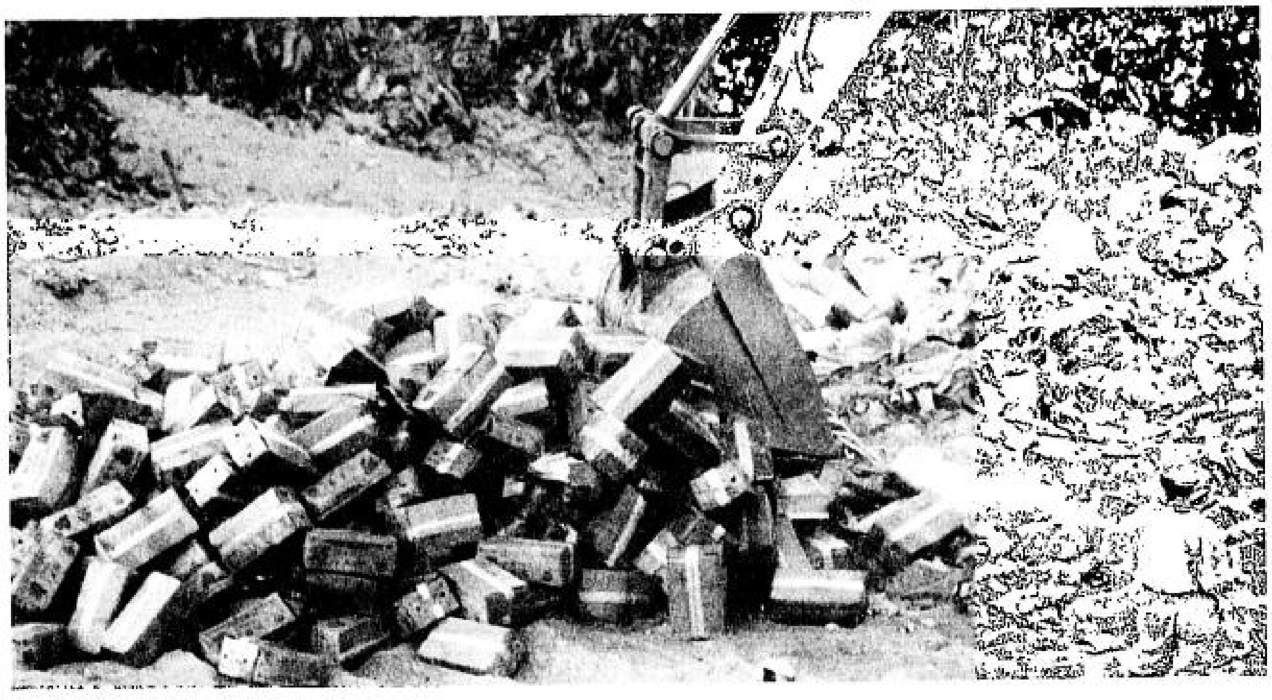

GONE TO WASTE
Assorted vegetables from Shandong, China are dumped at the garbage facility in Montalban, Rizal. According to a government statement, the food products are being disposed of, as per policy, to protect the local vegetable market from being flooded with cheap imported products.
JOAN BONDOC

Maganto operation a mistake, says Laguna's top cop

By Christian Esguerra and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE POLICE officer who was slain while hunting down fugitive Supt. Rafael Cardeño in Laguna may have died in vain.

According to Chief Superintendent Jaime Caringal, members of Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto's task force made a mistake when they raided the Famy, Laguna house of Benjamin Bagolbagol, said to be a drug dealer in the province.

SPO2 Almario Jimenez was killed during the raid on Bagolbagol's house on Monday. Bagolbagol himself was shot to death that same night.

Caringal, newly installed police chief of the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon Province) region, disputed Maganto's claim that Bagolbagol's residence was the safehouse of Cardeño, a police superintendent wanted for the murder of government informant Baron Cervantes.

"It's very hard to (link) Bagolbagol to Cardeño's activities," Caringal said in his office in Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna. "Maganto and his men were in the area based on intelligence (reports) that Cardeño was in Famy. But (Maganto and his men) never coordinated with our police."

The police chief said Maganto's men, without providing details, informed a nearby police detachment that they would be conducting an operation in the area.

SPO2 Jimenez

Moments later, they went back to the detachment to inform the police of the shootout.

"They never told our police that they were the ones who engaged in the shootout," Caringal said. "There was never a formal coordination."

The group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) yesterday honored the slain officer SPO2 Jimenez.

"He's one of the very few good men, a rare breed of policeman," Dante Jimenez yesterday said when he announced the posthumous award for the officer.

According to the VACC, SPO2 Jimenez did not fit the image of a typical policeman: He was not brutal and inexplicably well-off.

Jimenez's rundown shack in a squatter community in Manila is solid proof that he never enriched himself in his long years in police service.

SPO2 Jimenez left behind a wife and six

MAGANTO / A23

LATE SPORTS

San Miguel rips Shell

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—San Miguel Beer continued to assert its mastery over Shell last night.

The Beermen further stretched the Turbochargers' string of miseries against them to eight consecutive games after pulling off a convincing 76-58 victory in the Samsung PBA All Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center here.

SMB thus grabbed the lead in Group A as the Beermen improved to 10-6 and moved closer to securing an automatic slot in the Asian Invitationals next conference.

The Turbochargers got a big lift from Batang Red Bull after the Thunder routed Barangay Ginebra, 101-83, in the nightcap.

The Thunder's 13th win in 17 games enabled the Turbochargers to enjoy a one-game edge over the Kings, who fell to 5-12.

Meanwhile, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala denied the protest filed by Purefoods Hotdogs regarding the outcome of its match against FedEx last May 14.

Firemen return P.7M to Caloocan fire victim

By Tina Santos

THE CALOOCAN City government yesterday commended the city fire chief and his men for returning about P700,000 in cash to the owner of a warehouse that was gutted in a fire early yesterday morning.

City Administrator Mamerto Manahan, on behalf of Mayor Rey Malonzo, praised Chief Insp. Agapito Nacario and his men for their honesty and integrity in the performance of their duty.

Arson investigators said a one-hour fire destroyed the warehouse of V.G. Plastic Printing Services on G. De Jesus Street, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan.

It was around 12:45 a.m. when the fire broke out inside the warehouse after a series of loud explosions were heard from an electric post, sending sparks into the establishment.

As firefighters were controlling the blaze, some of them noticed a thick envelope inside the warehouse. When they opened it, they found it was filled with peso bills amounting to at least P700,000.

Warehouse owner Vicente Chua said Nacario returned the money to him without a single centavo missing.

Investigators pegged damage to property at P10 million. The money which Nacario and his men recovered was supposed to be used to pay the salaries of Chua's employees.

MMDA reconsiders road ban on private vehicles

By Leila Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority is set to review its traffic scheme after public utility drivers complained of heavy traffic particularly during the hours when private motorists, whose vehicles are supposed to be banned for the day, are allowed on the streets.

Public utility vehicle drivers and operators told the MMDA that traffic congestion on several roads tends to be severe between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the duration of the window hours for private vehicles, said Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"The PUV drivers concluded that the window hours were the culprit (in the traffic congestion problem)," Vergel de Dios said.

He said that the MMDA's air quality department would conduct a vehicle count during the said window hours to determine the cause of traffic congestion in response to the complaints.

The window hours were designated by the Metro Manila Council after

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Makati adopts tough anti-SARS measures

By Leila Salaverria

SUSPECTED SARS patients in Makati who refuse to be quarantined will be "arrested." But instead of being sent to a detention center, they will be taken to the hospital.

This is one of the measures contained in the recently passed Makati Anti-SARS Ordinance designating guidelines on what the city's residents and officials should do to prevent the spread of the deadly virus that has been causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The ordinance empowers the city mayor to order police officers to compel a suspected SARS patient to be confined at home or be brought to designated medical facilities so as not to infect other persons.

If the patient is stubborn and refuses to follow quarantine directives, then the police officers, in coordination with local health officials, must

MAKATI/ A23

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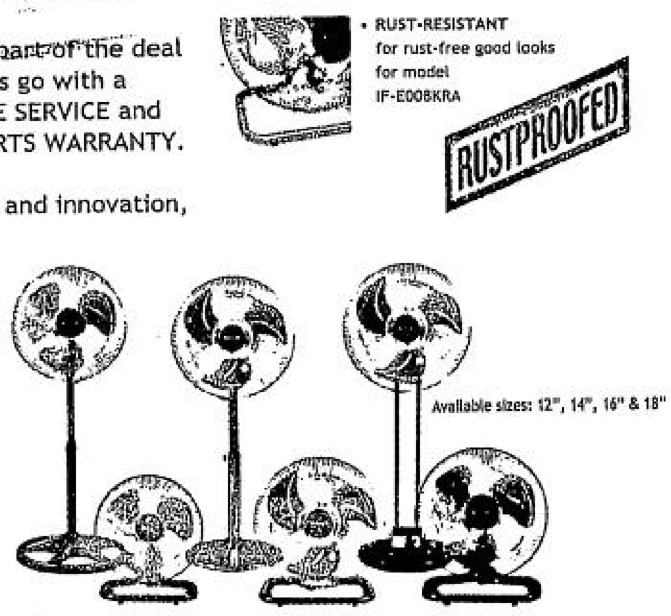

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ROAD RAGE SHOOTING

Ex-congressman not yet off the hook

By Leila Salaverria and Jamie Alarcon

FORMER party-list Representative Omar Fajardo is not yet off the hook for shooting at a passenger bus that hit his vehicle in Makati City last Wednesday night.

The man who was driving the Quezon Liner Bus, Sebastian Dario Coronado, yesterday appeared before police to give his statement.

This statement will be the basis for charges that would be filed against Fajardo, according to police.

Coronado, 39, earlier went into hiding in a friend's house in Camp Vicente Lim.

He told police that he was driving along Edsa near the Ayala Avenue tunnel at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday.

In his statement to the police, Coronado said he was driving along Edsa near the Ayala tunnel around 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday when he saw Fajardo riding in a van and holding a gun.

Coronado said Fajardo, a representative of Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW party in the 10th congress, was signaling him to go to the side of the road.

When he did, Fajardo fired at him, forcing him to speed away, Coronado said.

But Fajardo chased him in his van and continued shooting at the bus, he said. When Fajardo's vehicle overtook the bus, the vehicle accidentally bumped into the back of the van, forcing it to a sudden stop, Coronado said.

He said that he was scared so he did not stop to check on the van and instead drove off until he reached the BLTB terminal in Pasay.

Fajardo had followed the bus to the terminal, and when Coronado got off the bus, the former congressman pointed his gun at him, Coronado told police.

He said he then ran to the terminal's office and a security guard prevented Fajardo from following him there.

Coronado said that when he learned the armed man was a congressman, he became afraid and decided to hide in Camp Vicente Lim where his friend, an employee of the National Police Commission, stays.

The same friend advised Coronado to go to police after he met with his boss, the driver said.

Coronado said he did not know why Fajardo had shot at him.

Fajardo earlier told police that he would file frustrated murder charges against Coronado and his bus company.

He also told police that the bus had hit his van on Guadalupe bridge in Makati so he chased it to find out its license plate number. But the bus again hit his van on Ayala Avenue, according to Fajardo.

He then fired a warning shot at the bus with his .9-mm pistol.

Police yesterday said Fajardo might have panicked when the bus hit his van.

But in his statement to police, Coronado said he hit the van while they were inside the Ayala tunnel. He said the bus conductor, Rolando Manguiat, and three passengers were in the bus when Fajardo came after them.

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Boy tells of sister's death in hands of father's lover

By Christian Esguerra

"MY SISTER was crying and she just shot her!"

This was the account of 9-year-old Valentino Villafuerte Jr. to police of how his father's live-in partner Jemalyn Malintag killed his sister Rosalie on Thursday night in their home in Parañaque City.

Police said Rosalie, 14, was spending two weeks of her summer vacation in her father's house in Creek Drive III, San Antonio Valley.

But Valentino's live-in partner Malintag had forced Rosalie to work as a spotter at a billiard center near their house.

When he confronted Malintag about his daughter's employment, the live-in partner reacted by going to a neighbor's house to get a .38 revolver, according to Parañaque police chief Ronald Estilles.

Malintag then grabbed Rosalie and threatened to shoot her.

Valentino was still pleading with her to release his daughter when Malintag just pulled the trigger, police said.

The young Valentino watched the tragedy as if he were watching a telenovela, police said.

The bullet hit Rosalie in the right eye, killing her instantaneously, police said.

Rosalie's death last Thursday was also the first death anniversary of her mother.

Police said the older Valentino started dating Malintag when she was only 16 and working as a waitress. She moved in with Valentino when his wife died last year.

Salvage victim with 31 stab wounds found in Tondo

By Philip Tubeza

THE BODY of a man with 31 stab wounds was found in Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

Police said the victim was between 35 to 40 years old and about 5-foot-5 tall and clad in white shirt and black short pants.

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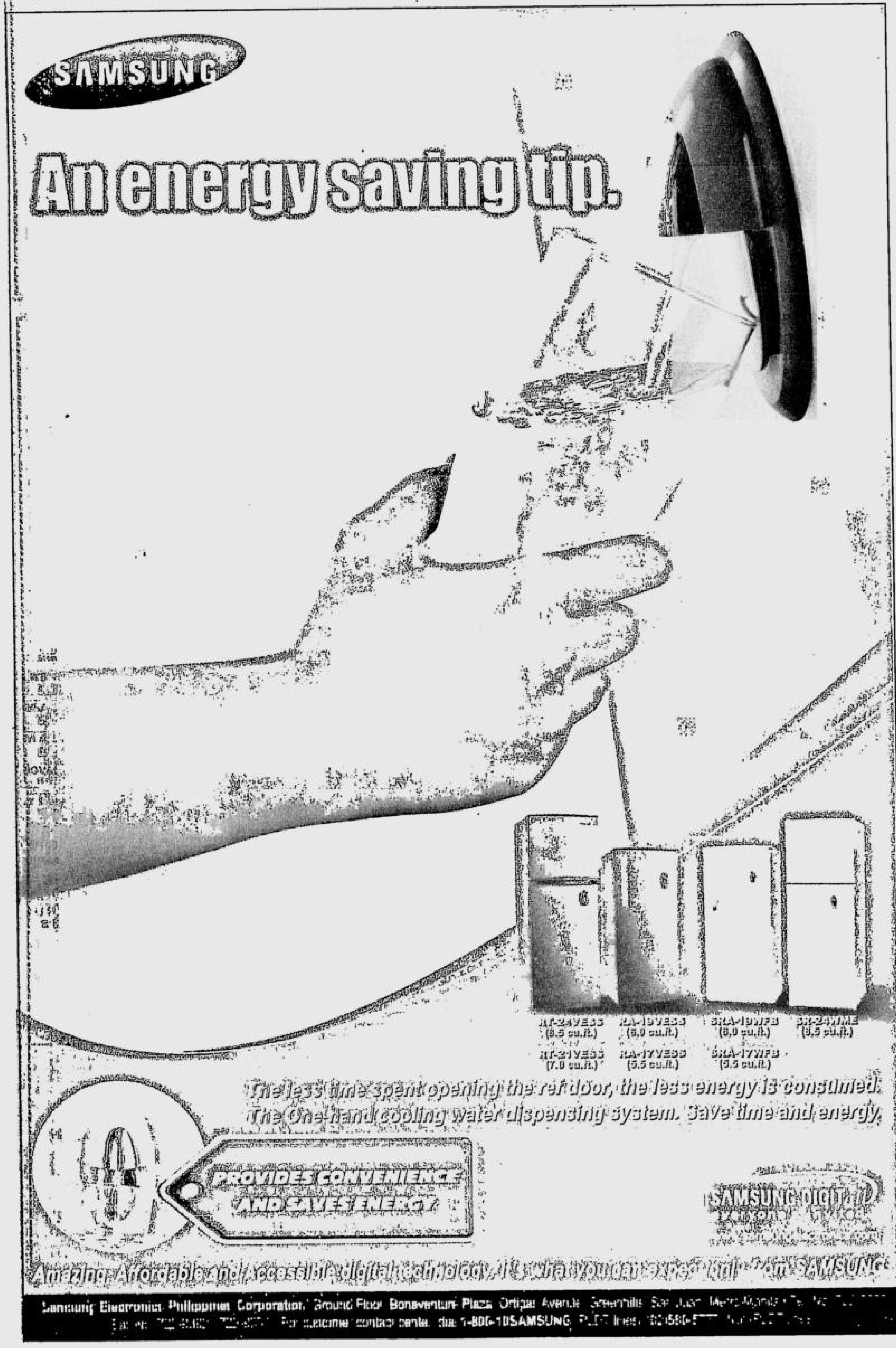
The witnesses then reported the incident to the WPD Station 2. They told police the man was apparently salvaged then dumped in their neighborhood.

The body was brought to the Popular Funeral Homes for an autopsy and safekeeping, police said.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Son of slain Japanese says pa had enemies

By Christian Esguerra

BEFORE Japanese businessman Hiromasa Murakami was killed, he had talked to his son about "certain enemies" he made in his marble export business.

Murakami's son, Philippine amateur golf champion Artemio Murakami, 19, yesterday asked police investigating his father's week-old murder to look into the possibility that the Yakuza gang was behind the killing.

The older Murakami was shot to death in his bedroom in his home in Parañaque City last week. He was 58.

"He spoke (in a low voice) and his statements were vague," said the younger Murakami.

But to the golfing champ, "it was clear that he had enemies in the business."

The older Murakami's business colleagues had also suggested to Artemio that his father could have crossed the Yakuza in his business deals, the son said.

This would explain the older Murakami's periodic distress, which led to his talks about enemies, the younger Murakami added.

In bringing up the Yakuza angle, the younger Murakami had offered police a new lead in his father's killing and had thrown suspicion away from his mother Carmelita and her four other sons by a previous marriage.

Artemio yesterday told the INQUIRER that his mother and half-brothers could not have been involved in his father's killing.

"They would never do that," he said. "They loved him so much. Like me, they were also fully dependent on my father. Why would they have him killed?"

Carmelita was sleeping beside Murakami when the businessman was shot to death by at least two men who had broken into their house.

But she had told police that she did not see her husband's killers. She had also refused to give her statement to police and had refused to take a paraffin test, saying that it might affect her health.

Carmelita is suffering from diabetes and hypertension.

Her four other sons had also refused to cooperate with police.

But Artemio yesterday said that his half-brothers were then busy taking over their father's food supply business in Marikina and could not be immediately available to police for their paraffin tests.

The older Murakami owned the Kansai Food Inc., which imports food ingredients from Japan to sell to local restaurants, according to his son.

But he said that their family depended mainly on their father's marble and pebbles export business.

Police beef up security for June school opening

By Alcuin Papa

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has already instituted security measures for the opening of classes next month.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco said yesterday that he had activated "Oplan Balik Eskwela" to secure the safety of millions of elementary, high school and college students due to return to school on June 9.

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Areas where additional police deployment is needed will also be identified.

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He added that there is still a need to neutralize some 88 active criminal gangs operating in the streets of the metropolis despite a reported 47-percent reduction in street crimes in the first quarter of this year.

ROAD RAGE SHOOTING

Ex-congressman not yet off the hook

By Leila Salaverria and Jamie Alarcon

FORMER party-list Representative Omar Fajardo is not yet off the hook for shooting at a passenger bus that hit his vehicle in Makati City last Wednesday night.

The man who was driving the Quezon Liner Bus, Sebastian Dario Coronado, yesterday appeared before police to give his statement.

This statement will be the basis for charges that would be filed against Fajardo, according to police.

Coronado, 39, earlier went into hiding in a friend's house in Camp Vicente Lim.

He told police that he was driving along Edsa near the Ayala Avenue tunnel at 10:30 p.m. Wednesday.

In his statement to the police, Coronado said he was driving along Edsa near the Ayala tunnel around 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday when he saw Fajardo riding in a van and holding a gun.

Coronado said Fajardo, a representative of Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW party in the 10th congress, was signaling him to go to the side of the road.

When he did, Fajardo fired at him, forcing him to speed away, Coronado said.

But Fajardo chased him in his van and continued shooting at the bus, he said. When Fajardo's vehicle overtook the bus, the vehicle accidentally bumped into the back of the van, forcing it to a sudden stop, Coronado said.

He said that he was scared so he did not stop to check on the van and instead drove off until he reached the BLTB terminal in Pasay.

Fajardo had followed the bus to the terminal, and when Coronado got off the bus, the former congressman pointed his gun at him, Coronado told police.

He said he then ran to the terminal's office and a security guard prevented Fajardo from following him there.

Coronado said that when he learned the armed man was a congressman, he became afraid and decided to hide in Camp Vicente Lim where his friend, an employee of the National Police Commission, stays.

The same friend advised Coronado to go to police after he met with his boss, the driver said.

Coronado said he did not know why Fajardo had shot at him.

Fajardo earlier told police that he would file frustrated murder charges against Coronado and his bus company.

He also told police that the bus had hit his van on Guadalupe bridge in Makati so he chased it to find out its license plate number. But the bus again hit his van on Ayala Avenue, according to Fajardo.

He then fired a warning shot at the bus with his .9-mm pistol.

Police yesterday said Fajardo might have panicked when the bus hit his van.

But in his statement to police, Coronado said he hit the van while they were inside the Ayala tunnel. He said the bus conductor, Rolando Manguiat, and three passengers were in the bus when Fajardo came after them.

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Boy tells of sister's death in hands of father's lover

By Christian Esguerra

"MY SISTER was crying and she just shot her!"

This was the account of 9-year-old Valentino Villafuerte Jr. to police of how his father's live-in partner Jemalyn Malintag killed his sister Rosalie on Thursday night in their home in Parañaque City.

Police said Rosalie, 14, was spending two weeks of her summer vacation in her father's house in Creek Drive III, San Antonio Valley.

But Valentino's live-in partner Malintag had forced Rosalie to work as a spotter at a billiard center near their house.

When he confronted Malintag about his daughter's employment, the live-in partner reacted by going to a neighbor's house to get a .38 revolver, according to Parañaque police chief Ronald Estilles.

Malintag then grabbed Rosalie and threatened to shoot her.

Valentino was still pleading with her to release his daughter when Malintag just pulled the trigger, police said.

The young Valentino watched the tragedy as if he were watching a telenovela, police said.

The bullet hit Rosalie in the right eye, killing her instantaneously, police said.

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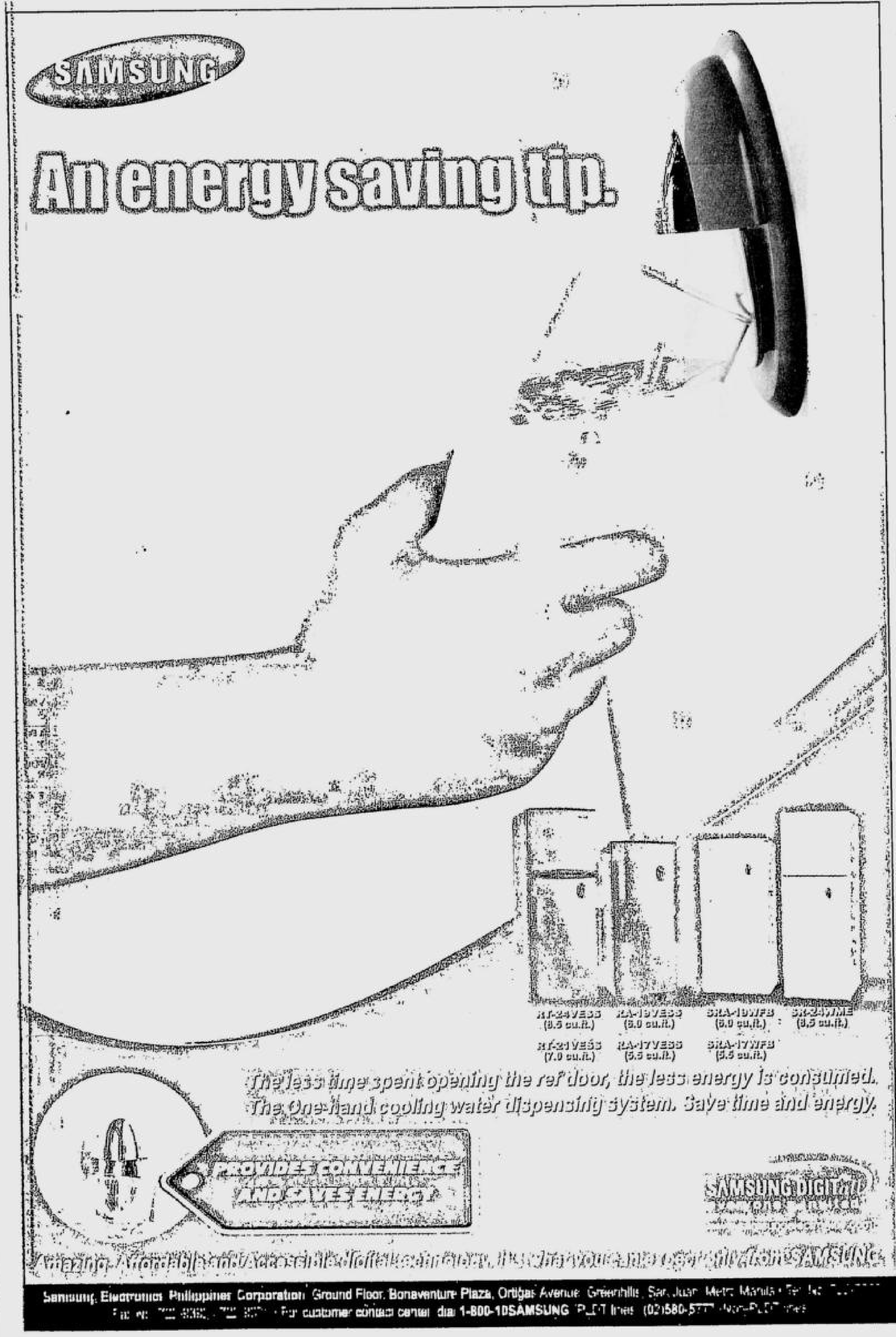
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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Suspended prisons chief can't go back

EVEN in the unlikely event that suspended Corrections Director Ricardo Macala is eventually cleared of all administrative charges against him, he still can't return to his post because somebody has already taken over it.

Gen. Dionisio Santiago, former Armed Forces chief of staff, has been appointed as director of the Bureau of Corrections.

From an incompetent and corrupt retired provincial cop, the prisons agency is now in the hands of a professional and well-disciplined retired military general.

* * *

Before he was yanked out as corrections director, Macala made several "midnight" appointments that were never done by his predecessors, an indication of a small mind sympathizing with its own kind.

Macala designated senior prison guards to key positions in the bureau when there are officials suited to those positions. It's like designating a mere sergeant to run an army battalion when it is supposed to be headed by a lieutenant colonel.

Macala even unashamedly appointed one of his own sons as overseer of one of the dormitories at the maximum security compound in the National Penitentiary. He did that so there would be unhampered smuggling of drugs, liquor, cellular phones and guns into the prisons compound.

* * *

Even after he has already been suspended, Macala continues to leave his mark at the National Penitentiary, also known as the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP).

Smuggling of drugs and cellular phones continues unabated at the maximum security compound.

The NBP superintendent, Francisco Aburnales, is having a hard time stopping the flow of contraband items into the NBP. The momentum is still there.

* * *

This creep Macala has filed seven counts of libel against this writer and

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

the INQUIRER editors for writing that many items about him in this space.

The libel cases are pending with the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court. I was ordered arrested based on Macala's charges, but I have posted a P70,000 bail bond.

The Muntinlupa prosecutor who filed the charges in court is apparently pea-brained like Macala. The good "fix-cal" didn't even try to determine whether or not I was motivated by public interest in writing those articles.

* * *

That dumb "fix-cal" is probably red in the face after Macala was ordered suspended by Malacañang. But, on the other hand, a dumbo doesn't have a sense of embarrassment. There's a term for that in Tagalog: "Walanghiya."

You'll be surprised we have judges and prosecutors who are unbelievably dumb. Their low IQ is reflected in their inarticulateness and their limited knowledge of the law.

How they got through law school and the Bar exams is also a reflection of the sorry state of our educational system.

* * *

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos calls for a special day that would honor "X-Men" or gays in street lingo.

Members of the "third sex," Marcos says, should be given recognition for their contributions to society, mostly in the arts, music, literature, fashion and academe.

Ms Marcos should also have included crime fighting and legislation.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson cannot live down the criticism that he used gayspeak in attacking a critic.

Lacson used the word "taratitat" which is used by fairies in describing the loquaciousness of their own kind.

"Taratitat" is not used in "normal" heterosexual society.

* * *

Mayor Aristeo Atienza of Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, protects his turf as a bouncer does a sleazy bar.

Atienza recently prevented agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) from rescuing two minors from a prostitution house in his town.

As a result, Atienza is facing criminal and administrative charges.

Baka naman may-ari si Meyor noong kasa. In which case he should be charged with white slavery.

* * *

My good friend Chuckie Arellano is being used as the punching bag for all the present-day problems of the Social Security System (SSS), which he ran from mid-1998 until 2000. But the records clearly show that his performance as SSS chief was one of the institution's best.

In one quarter alone, he earned a 50-percent yield on the value of SSS investments. What the senators and congressmen don't realize is that Arellano's success was based on a policy of selling non-performing assets, and exchanging them for stable and profitable holdings.

And now because the succeeding SSS administrations have been too afraid to trade stock the succeeding years, why should Chuckie be blamed for their "paralysis by analysis?"

Pension funds need dynamic and enlightened management because they must grow annually. Caretakers generally make no contributions, and are prone to place the blame on predecessors for their own lack of activity.

* * *

Starting Tuesday, I'll be taking my annual two-week vacation. I'll be back on the first week of June. See you then.

French kisser steals police car, slams into electric post

FRENCH businessman Gilbert Sacha Benoit appeared to have lost his head when he made a pass on a female employee at the Volvo showroom on Shaw Boulevard in Pasig City. Fearing arrest, the Frenchman escaped on board a police car which he slammed into an electric post Thursday night.

Police said Benoit, 38, a native of Paris and temporarily staying at a house on Bohol Avenue, Quezon City, was unhurt.

Responding to a sexual harassment complaint, members of the Pasig City Police tried to arrest Benoit shortly after 5 p.m. inside the Volvo Car Showroom on Shaw Boulevard.

Tanya Somera, a marketing officer of Celestial Motors, the official distributor of Volvo in the country, said that they will be pressing charges against Benoit. But she refused to divulge details of Benoit's offense, citing the instructions of their lawyer.

At the showroom, the lawmen found Benoit reeking of liquor.

The police said Benoit resisted arrest and jumped into the police car of the arresting lawmen and sped off towards ADB Avenue where he crashed into an electric post.

FRENCHMAN Benoit behind bars

JOAN BONDOC

PO1 John Ocleda said they have already filed charges of alarm and scandal, physical injury and disobedience to a person of authority against Benoit before the Pasig City Prosecutor's Office. He added that Benoit, although sober by then, had refused to talk. *N. Flores*

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Makati adopts tough anti-SARS measures

From page A21

bring him—by force if need be—to a hospital.

Suspected SARS patients must also not be confined too long in the isolation room of the Ospital ng Makati and should be taken to the San Lazaro Hospital, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine or the Lung Center of the Philippines.

The ordinance also requires all crematoriums and funeral and embalming establishments in Makati to immediately cremate or bury a person suspected or confirmed to have died of SARS, and to coordinate with the Department of Health to learn proper procedures that must be followed in handling the bodies. Those who violate this provision face revocation of their business and mayor's permits and payment of a P5,000-fine or imprisonment.

Meanwhile, the City Health Department has also established a "SARS Hotline." Residents may call 870-1633 to report suspected SARS cases based on the presence of at least two of three factors contained in the SARS algorithm, namely: recent travel to SARS-infected countries; close contact with probable SARS carriers; and evident signs and symptoms such as fever higher than 38°C, cough and colds, and difficulty of breathing.

Manhunt on for Rodriguez

By Philip Tubeza

SAYING that they found it difficult to find justice in the country, former Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez and his wife Imelda for the third time failed to turn themselves in to the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Instead, they sent NBI officials a copy of their motion before the Manila Regional Trial Court where they asked the court to cancel the arrest warrants against them and restore their bail bonds.

They also asked the Supreme Court on Monday to issue a temporary restraining order on the lower court.

"Eduardo is now convinced that it is difficult to find justice in his very own country, the Philippines," the couple said in their four-page motion. "The Philippine government, that has the primary duty to protect the rights of its nationals, is more inclined to advance the interest of other countries, that of the US in particular."

They filed their petition on Thursday before Manila RTC Branch 17, the court hearing their extradition case.

NBI officials, however, were not amused by the couple's stalling and legal maneuvers. NBI agents have begun hunting them down.

"The mere filing of a motion will not prevent the NBI to serve the warrant," said Ricardo Diaz, NBI Interpol unit chief.

He said that there was "an element of deceit" in the couple's maneuvers since they had promised three times that they would surrender to the NBI.

Rodriguez is now saying that he would surrender "at around 5 p.m. on May 27," if the Supreme Court does not act on his motion for certiorari and for a TRO.

The high court is set to hear his case that morning. Rodriguez wants the high court to decide against the Manila RTC because the lower court allegedly decided to scrap their bail and issue their arrest warrants without "notice or hearing."

Rodriguez said he is willing to be extradited voluntarily to the United States on June 12, Independence Day. He said he will leave his wife behind while he tries to have the US courts lower their bail in America to "a reasonable and affordable amount."

The US court set bail for each of them at $1 million. Once the bail is lowered, Imelda will follow Rodriguez "voluntarily" to the US.

Rodriguez said that she "will not jump bail or be a fugitive" while waiting for developments in America.

Maganto operation. . .

From page A21

young children who share the family's two-bedroom shanty in Interior 10, Geronimo Street, Sampaloc.

Neighbors remember him as an honest cop who never involved himself in illegal activities, particularly extortion.

"He was a model policeman, the type you wish to see in the streets," they told Chief Supt. Maganto during simple rites at the victim's house.

Cervantes' father Roque yesterday appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to assist the officer's wife and children since he was the family's breadwinner.

The family got P10,000 from Maganto, but the amount won't even be enough to bury the slain officer tomorrow, said Dante Jimenez.

The VACC chair explained that Maganto could only give so much because his special team of hunters does not even receive any budget from the national police.

Meanwhile, Bagolbagol's relatives denounced the killing. They denied that Bagolbagol, a former barangay official, had ties with Cardeño and fellow fugitive Sonny Camacho. They also refused to autopsy the body of their slain relative.

But Caringal confirmed that Bagolbagol was in their watch list of suspected drug dealers in Laguna. He said Bagolbagol had a series of criminal cases in the province.

Cardeño's lawyer Homobono Adaza also hit Maganto for "killing civilians with impunity." He said police authorities should censure Maganto's actions.

MMDA reconsiders . . .

From page A21

it amended the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) two months ago. Under the new UVVRP, all kinds of public utility vehicles would be under the number coding scheme from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Private vehicles also follow the UVVRP, except during the 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. window.

However, the window hours are not observed in Makati and San Juan, where the UVVRP is imposed on all vehicles from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except in parts of EDSA, C-5 and the South Superhighway that pass through them.

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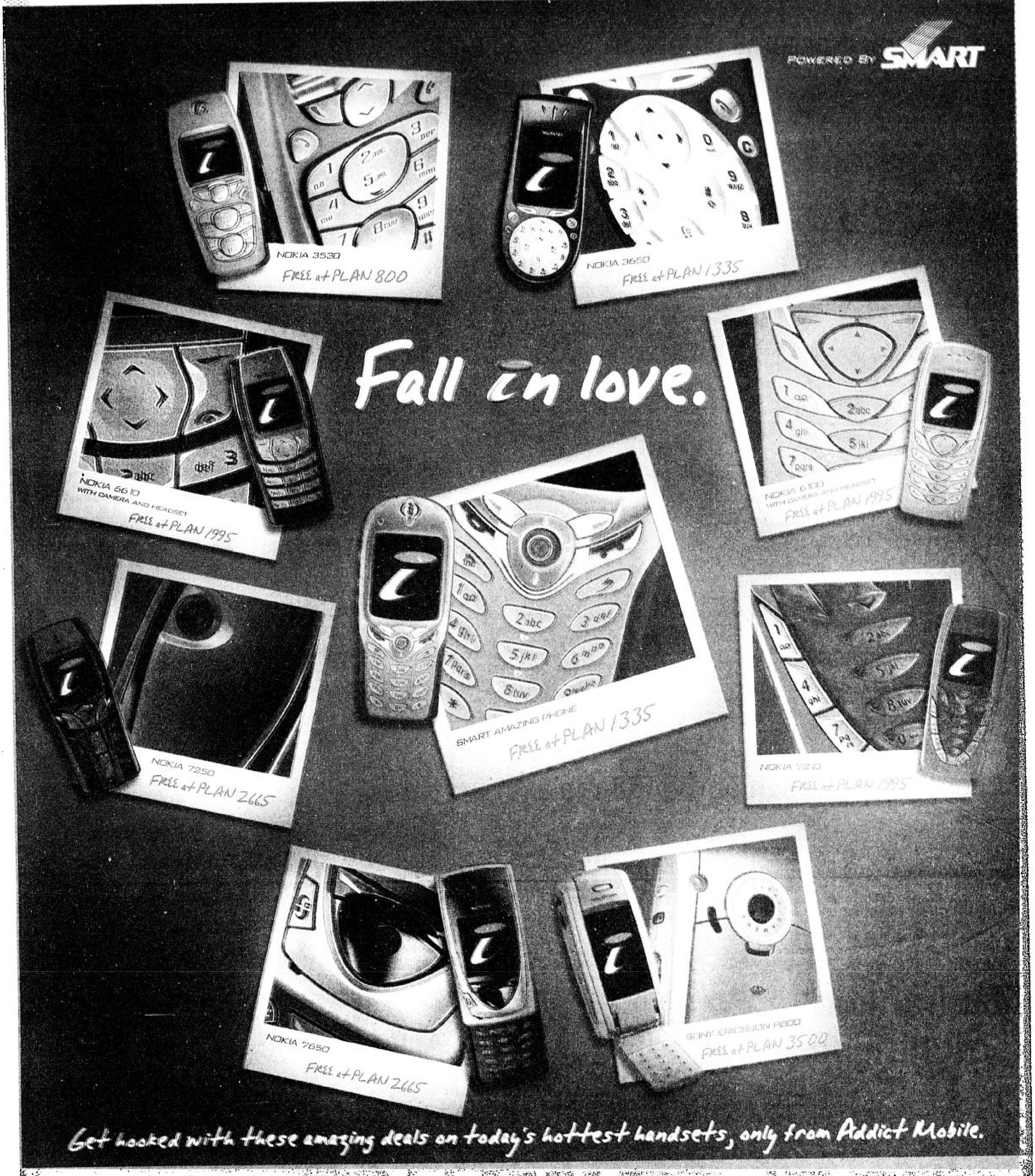
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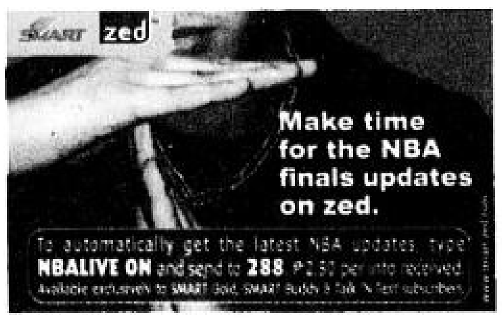

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EALA

Sue me, Eala dares cager

By June Navarro

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association yesterday vowed that "no amount of threat and persecution could force it to reverse its decision" to indefinitely suspend Norman Gonzales after the Talk N Text power forward had tested positive for banned drugs.

Reacting to threats from Gonzales' lawyers to take the case to court, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said the Talk N Text cager had gotten it all wrong.

"There was no human rights violation here," Eala stressed.

Gonzales, through his counsel Efren Hipolito Jr., gave the PBA an ultimatum to reverse its ruling before Monday or face legal action.

Gonzales was suspended indefinitely by the PBA after testing positive for Ecstasy on April 30.

Eala, however, remained firm on his decision to bar Gonzales from seeing action in the PBA until after the 6-foot-4 Phone Pal has undergone a six-month rehabilitation program.

"I don't think his (Gonzales) veiled threats have any legal basis. As far as the PBA is concerned, we conducted the tests in accordance with the law, league rules and the Uniform Player's Contract (UPC) that he had signed," Eala told the INQUIRER.

Eala further stressed that Gonzales should reconsider his position since the former San Beda College standout voluntarily submitted himself to urine sample testing and was not coerced in any way that would infringe his human rights.

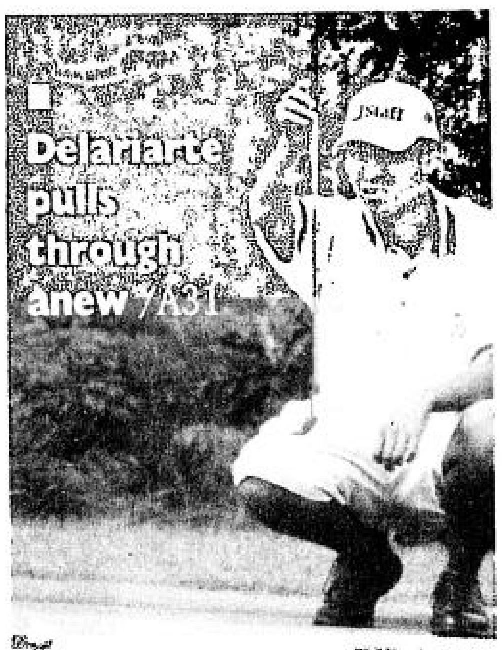
"He (Gonzales) should have declined even before the tests were conducted. Why is he contesting the tests as a clear violation of human rights only now?" said Eala.

Hipolito, a senior partner at the Villanueva, De Leon and Hipolito Law Office, earlier cited a Department of Justice opinion in 1986, pointing out that mandatory drug testing is a clear violation of human rights.

Hipolito supported his claim by explaining that drug testing should be done purely on a voluntary basis or as a pre-employment requirement.

"He could have gotten it all wrong. The PBA is not out to destroy anybody's career but is here to help protect its players from the drug menace," said Eala, who scheduled a meeting with Gonzales and his lawyer on Monday.

WHAT'S INSIDE

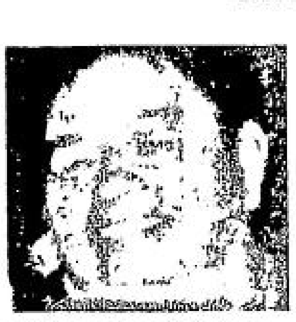


■ Delariarte pulls through anew /A31

■ Family bonding in the fairways /A31

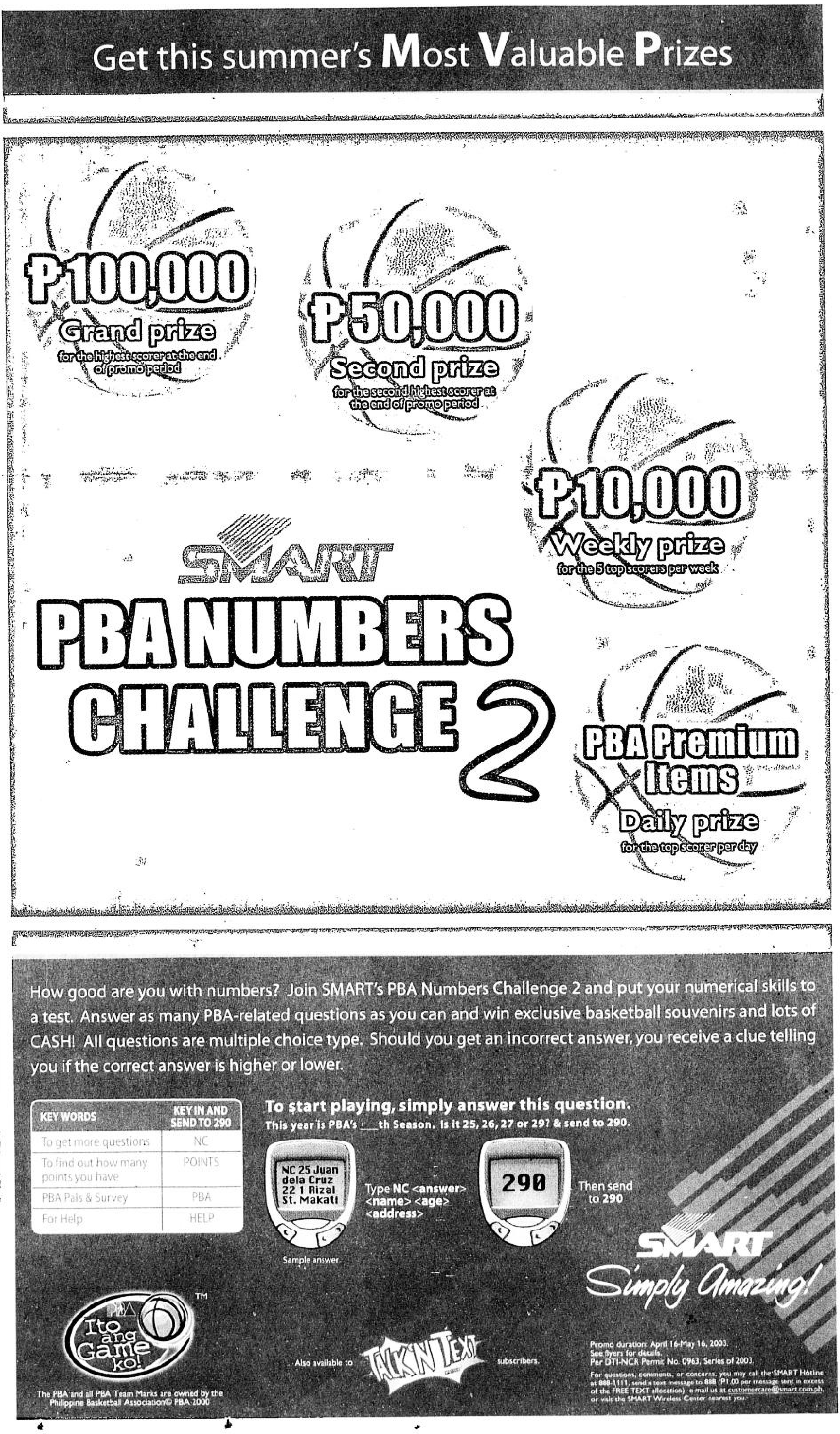
■ Goodbye Lakers /A28

■ Quirimit: Sad story retold /A26



■ Annika ventures into the unknown /A30

■ Danny Floro remembered /A27



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SPORTSWATCH

Aguilar, Flores triumph

OSCAR Aguilar of Caltex and Darryl Flores of Auto Solution came away with double wins that boosted their chances in their respective cases halfway through the 2003 SVI Challenge Cup at the Subic International Raceway. Seizing the opportunity as soon as he can, Aguilar threw away all his prerace plans and pounced on his rivals' lackluster start to take top honors in both the seventh and eighth rounds in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI). Aguilar, father of well-known motocross champion Glen Aguilar, edged Gaby de la Merced of Petron-Auto Solutions in the seventh round and teammate Peewee Mendiola of Caltex in the eighth round to climb into solo second place with 33 points. Dominique Bon of SRA maintained the overall lead with 34 points despite his failure to finish the eighth round.

500 join wushu event

THE COUNTRY'S best wushu artists see action today in the 2003 National Wushu Championships to be simultaneously held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and the Wushu Federation of the Philippines gym. More than 500 entries from 45 teams all over the country are vying for 56 golds at stake in the two-day event which starts at 8:30 a.m. Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit and presidents of different national sports association are expected to grace the opening ceremony. Events on tap are taolu (from seven years old to above 60 years old) and sanshou (which will open for female competitors for the first time). Also featured is an exhibition of traditional style of Chinese martial arts. Spearheading the national campaigners are 2002 Busan Asian Games silver medalists Rexel Nganhayna, Marvin Sicomen and Arvin Ting, and bronze medal winners Eduard Folayang and Lily So.

MCC holds exec tourney

THE MCC Executive and Professionals Chess Tournament kick of at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at the 2/F of Chowking-Remar Branch in Cubao, Quezon City. Qualified to join the executive group are businessmen or holding managerial or supervisory positions in private and government firms, or those practicing their professions for at east 10 years or military officers holding the rank of a captain or major. For professionals, participants must be college degree holders who may or may not hold sensitive positions in their companies. Interested parties who wish to join are requested to proceed at the venue site and register at least before 9 a.m. tomorrow. For more details, call 826-8560 and 0918-939-3702 or 0916-852-10s69.

Celestino, Labay advance

BOYS' 16-under top seed Nestor Celestino Jr. downed No. 7 Raymond Villarete, 6-3, 6-3, yesterday to advance in the final against No. 5 Miguel Narvaez, 7-5, 6-3 winner over No. 2 Michael Basco, in the Tru-flex National Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tenis Center. In the girls' 18-under division, No. 2 Alyssa Labay defeated No. 4 Michelle Panis, 6-2, 7-5, to advance against No. 3 Kristel Samala, a 7-6 (5), 1-6, 6-2 winner over Jasper Joy Cabisong. Unranked Bambi Zoleta clobbered Alyssa Callejo, 6-2, 6-1, and Trudy Amoranto rallied past Jessica Agra, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, to forge a title showdown in the girls' 16-under class. Girls' 14-under third seed Jessica Agra got a free ride to the finals after Denise Culaba and Julie Em Botor failed to show up. Agra will meet the winner between No. 1 Bambi Zoleta and No. 4 Trudy Amoranto.

In the boys' 18-under category, No. 1 Irwin de Guzman outclassed No. 5 Laurence Magaway, 6-2, 6-3, to advance in the semifinals against No. 3 Jandrick de Castro, who beat No. 6 Kyle Dandan, 6-3, 6-4.

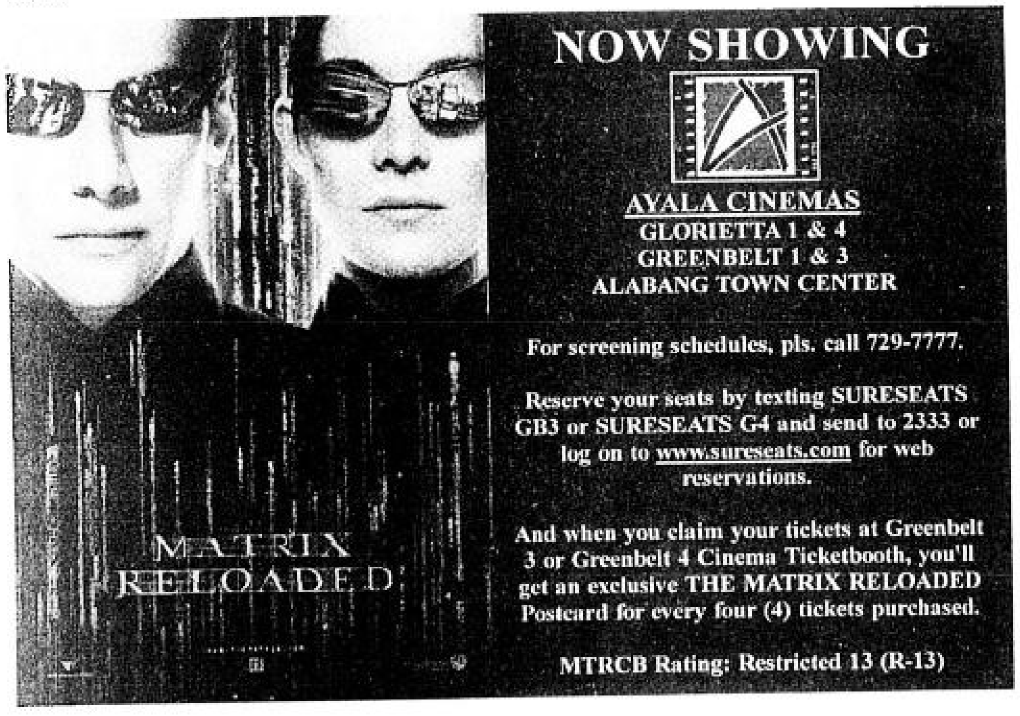
Santillan fights Thai tonight

CEBU City—Former Orient-Pacific welterweight champ Rev "Gentle Giant" Santillan takes on Thai warrior Sayan Chuwatana in a 10-round bout headlining the "Fist of the Giants" card at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Center tonight. Sanctioned by the Games and Amusements Board and backed by promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud and Lapu-Lapu City mayor Arturo Radaza, the international event will be the city's second major fight card this year.

The 5'11" Santillan, with a 15-1-1 (12 KOs) win-loss-draw record will face his first big test since losing the OPBF crown via a disputed decision to Japan's Hiroshi Watanabe last year. A win by Santillan over Chuwatana, a former Muay Thai (kick boxing) champ from Bangkok, could earn the Filipino a new crack at the Orient-Pacific title. "I came here to fight. I'm ready to see what Santillan can do," said Chuwatana through translator and international matchmaker Narong Hengtrakul.

Salud ma passes away

JOSEFA L. Salud, mother of lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud, passed away last Thursday. She was 98. Aside from Rudy, who distinguished himself as commissioner of the PBA and maker of future world boxing champions, the other members of the family are PBA physician Ben, Mrs. Josephine L. Castillo and the late Ramon Salud. Mrs. Salud's remains line in state at the Maria de la Strada Church in Katipunan, Quezon City.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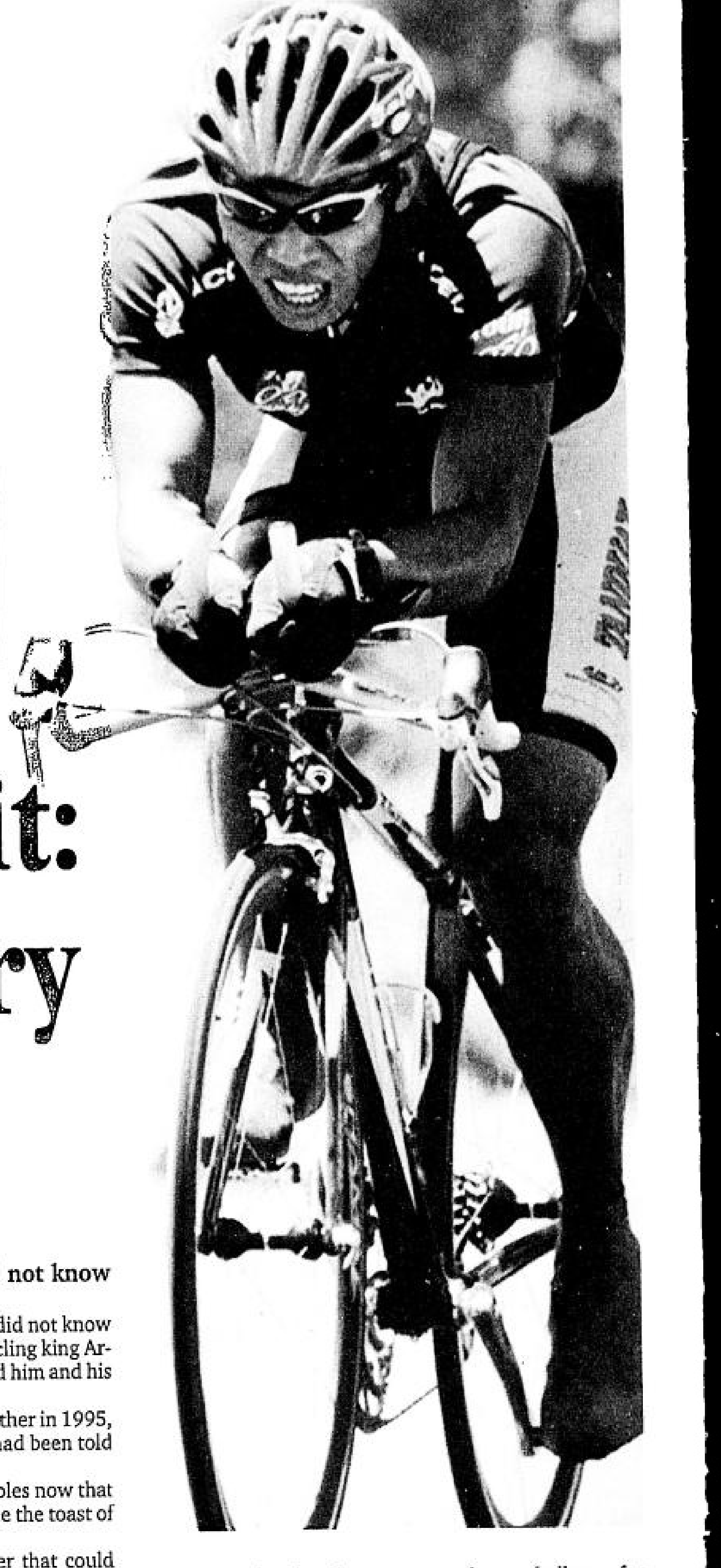

QUIRIMIT: Tearjerker (above) and triumph (right).

Quirimit: Sad story retold

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Father and son did not know each other.

"He did not know that I was his son, and I did not know that he was my father," newly crowned RP cycling king Arnel Quirimit said of his father who abandoned him and his mother when he was only 9.

The story of Quirimit finally meeting his father in 1995, when he was already a professional cyclist, had been told in past Tours.

But it's retelling still brings the goose pimples now that he has won the 2003 Tour Pilipinas to become the toast of local cycling.

In fact, Quirimit's life story is a tearjerker that could make a good material for a telenovela.

Quirimit, 27, single, narrated how his father, a soldier, left them when he was assigned to Mindanao never to return again.

It was his mother Teresita who supported the family by doing odd jobs.

Tough years

"Those were really difficult years. It was good that an uncle, who was in the United States, also gave us financial support," Quirimit said. "I could not think of anything good that my father did to us."

Quirimit said his mother had told him his father had already died, so he never bothered about him.

However, in 1995, during the Marlboro Tour stage in Davao where he finished eighth, a man approached him at the finish line.

The man turned out to be Arturo Quirimit, who had read in the newspaper about a Quirimit from Pozorrubio, Pangasinan who was doing well in the race.

The man wondered if Quirimit was the son he had left behind.

" While we were talking, he realized that I was his son. But I said my father was already dead because that was what my mother had told me," Quirimit narrated.

The elder Quirimit showed his ID as proof that he was really his father and that the cyclist was his eldest son.

"He said he was sorry. He cried and he embraced me," Quirimit recalled.

Father and son met again two years later in Cagayan de Oro City.

The cycling champ said that was the last time he saw his father.

"He already has a family so let's leave it at that," he said.

Of course, the abandonment had wounded him.

"When I was younger, I really felt bad about his abandoning us."

But bad feelings are now gone, Quirimit bared.

In a way, the abandonment served as a challenge for Quirimit to strive for success, to show that, even without his father's help, he could carve a name for himself and improve his and his mother's financial status.

First bike

Since his elementary grades, Quirimit said he already loved biking.

When he was in Grade Six, his uncle, Dominador de Vera, who was then in the US, gifted him with a BMX bike, which he used to ride around town.

But he said his original ambition was to be a nurse.

In fact, he was already in third year of his nursing studies when biking beckoned, and he had to stop going to school.

"I was already busy joining the races and did not have time to study," he said.

In 1993, his uncle went home for a vacation, and asked him what he liked as *pasalubong*.

"I said a racer bike, and my uncle bought me one," Quirimit said.

He started to ride seriously, and even went to Baguio City to hone his skills.

After a year, he joined professional cycling competitions and started collecting trophies.

Looking back, Quirimit said he regretted the way he handled his early winnings.

He said all his prize money would disappear just days after the races.

Saying he has learned his lesson, Quirimit has vowed to keep all his money in a bank "for the rainy days."

Anyway, he bared that his salary as an Army corporal was enough to support him and his mother.

Quirimit could not help but talk fondly of his mother, who, he said "took care of me when he was young and continues to take care of me now."

In return, he said he will take care of her even after he has gotten married.

"I will never, never leave her," he said.

Tanamor, 3 more RP boxers start strong in Lithuania

KAUNAS, Lithuania—Asian Games silver medalist Harry Tanamor proved superior over Faber Frantiser of Czechoslovakia Thursday to tow three other RP Revicon fighters into the semifinals of the 7th A. Socikas International Boxing Tournament here.

Showing the form that earned him light-flyweight titles in Azerbaijan and Greece last year, Tanamor connected at will against the Czech to win by RSC-O (Referee Stopped Contest-Outclassed) and join Arlan Lerio, Jenebert Pasadre and Esmael Bacongon in the medal round on Friday.

Already assured of at least four bronzes, the Filipinos are in a position to contend for the overall championship in the four-day, 14-nation tournament sanctioned by the Amateur International Boxing Association.

The 24-year-old Tanamor, who lost the Asiad gold to a South Korean in Busan last year, will battle Belarus' Zmaicik Segej in the semifinal.

Lerio, returning to the national pool after a two-year absence, will be facing Slovenia's Roman Durina in the 54kg class while Pasadre will be meeting local bet Marius Narkevicius in the 57kg category.

Latvia's Andrej Achmedov will be Bacongon's opponent in the 61kg division.

Only Florencio Ferrer fell by the wayside among the five Filipino fighters sent here by the Amateur Boxing

Association of the Philippines when he yielded a 9-12 decision to Lithuanian Alvaras Urbonavicious.

"So far so good. *Sana tuloy-tuloy na*," chorused head coach Pat Gaspi and assistant coach Alex Arroyo.

Abap president Manny Lopez said the boxers are performing according to expectations.

"They really prepared hard for this trip. After all, a three-tournament campaign comes very rarely," said Lopez.

After Lithuania, RP Revicon will proceed to Sevilla, Spain for the Box-Am International Championships and then to Greece for the 24th Acropolis Cup.

RP Revicon, which is gearing up for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games and the Manila Olympic Qualifying, is being supported by Pacific Heights and the Philippine Sports Commission and is outfitted by Accel.

Young, tall team to carry RP colors in Jones Cup

By Roy Luarca

A MIXTURE of rising stars and seasoned players will represent the Philippines in the 26th Jones Cup basketball tournament slated July 25-Aug. 2 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The Nationals, who will be known as RP-FedEx Air 21, will try to better the fifth place finish of Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier in last year's edition won by Australia Great Mates.

Six teenagers, who saw action in the 1st Bert Lina Six Footers Cup in February, will be joining Philippine Basketball League stalwarts Ervin Sotto, the team's tallest at 6-foot-7, MVP race pacesetter Ranidel de Ocampo (6-5), Nelbert Omolon (6-3 1/2) and Marc Pingris in the roster formed by coach Johhny Tam.

Tapped to provide poise and experience are playmaker Britt Reroma (5-8) and shooter Biboy Simon (6-1), once the most prolific scorer in the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association.

Save for Simon, they all played for the RP young Men's team which topped the Hong Kong Invitationals last year.

The rookies are Jonathan Fernandez (6-3) of National University, Edwin Asoro (6-3), Bryan Ilad (6-5), Jason Olivarez (6-6) and Albert Regala (6-2), all of the Philippine College of Criminology; Mapua's Michael Galinato (6-5), International School's Kevin Astorga (6-3), the youngest at 16; and San Beda's Mike Baldos (6-4).

FedEx president Lito Alvarez agreed to sponsor the Nationals' trip, citing the Jones Cup as one of Asia's toughest tournaments.

The last time the Philippines won the Jones Cup was in 1998 through the star-studded PBA Centennial team.

RP-FedEx Air 21's trip is sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines headed by Tiny Literal.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim said the inclusion of the youngsters is in line with the developmental thrust of the association.

Chinese-Taipei is doing the same thing with its Asian Games team last year boasting of six tall teeners.

Tam said the youngsters have been training regularly since the Bert Lina Cup, while the PBL standouts are set to join the scrimmages soon.

Redmanizers pay tribute to 'Boss Danny'

By Dennis U. Eroa

AT A time when the local basketball scene is in turmoil, the memory of the late Crispa Redmanizers team manager and owner Danny Floro continues to be respected and revered.

Yesterday, former Redmanizers paid tribute to the incomparable Floro during the weekly SCOOP sa Kamayan in West Avenue.

"He was like a father to all of us," said Atoy Co, the 1979 PBA MVP. "Boss Danny loved basketball so much that he spent more time with us than his family."

Nicknamed the Fortune Cookie, Co joined teammates Philip Cezar, Tito Varela, Dave Brodett, Freddie Hubalde and Bong de la Cruz in paying tribute to Floro, whose partnership with legendary coach Baby Dalupan in the Philippine Basketball Association gave Crispa the 1976 and 1983 grand slam titles.

Cezar, known for his defense and shotblocking skills, said Floro's generosity was boundless. "He was too kind. Truth is, I still owed him a lot of money but he didn't ask me for payment," said Cezar, former San Juan vice mayor.

Boss Danny, as his wards called him, died of stomach cancer on Feb. 25, 1995.

Tito Varela, a foxy defender during his prime, credited Crispa's success to Floro's management style.

"Unlike others, Boss Danny never interfered with our games. He never blamed us if we lost a game," said Varela.

Like Cezar, Co and Varela also translated their popularity to success in the political circles. Co is presently a Pasig City councilor, who focuses on sports development, while Varela, a former security guard at the University of the East, is now Caloocan vice mayor.

Hubalde said Floro simply could not say no to their requests.

"He always finds time to talk to us and listen to our problems," Hubalde, the 1977 MVP, said.

Brodett and De la Cruz also heaped praises on Floro.

"Those were the glory years," said Brodett, a star out of San Beda College. "Playing for Crispa was an honor."

Co and company also welcomed the coming Crispa-Toyota reunion, the main attraction of the PBA All-Stars celebration.

DANNY FLORO: Like a father to all.

The game will be held on May 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Crispa and Toyota had a combined number of 22 championships in the league.

Dalupan boasted of nine titles, while Dante Silverio, who will coach Toyota, won five. Toyota disbanded after the 1993 season, two years earlier than Crispa.

Told that Sen. Robert Jaworski and Ramon Fernandez will play for Toyota, Co said:

"It will be a stroll for us just like in the past."

Viva goes for last semis slot in PBL

GAME TODAY (Pasig Sports Center)
3 p.m.--Viva Mineral Water vs Blu Star Detergent

Dennis U. Eroa

VIVA Mineral Water shoots for the last semifinal seat against Blu Star Detergent at 3 p.m. today in the Sunkist-PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

By topping Pool A of the stepladder phase, Viva enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage over Blu, which ruled Pool B after edging ICTSI Archers, 71-70, last Thursday.

Dubbed as the Water Force, Viva beat Blu in their last meeting, 72-66, last April 13 at the San Juan Gym.

Already in the semifinals are John O, Hapee and Montaña.

Viva mentor Koy Banal has turned a bunch of collegiate stalwarts mostly from Far Eastern University into serious title-contenders. Viva started its campaign by losing all its three games before upstaging its highly favored rivals.

Boasting of a tall frontline composed of 6-foot-6 Mark Isip, 6-foot-4 Gerard Jones and 6-foot-7 Dom Yabut, Viva is also blessed with a pair of point guards, who can match up with the best that the league can offer.

Warren Ybañez, last year's finals MVP while playing for Shark Energy Drink, and Dennis Miranda, who owns a championship ring with Welcoat, have been masterfully keeping Viva's plays in motion.

Beating Blu, however, won't be easy. After a forgettable stint in the elimination where they finished with a woeful 3-7 record, the Detergent Kings have recovered their bearing.

Aside from veterans Eric de la Cuesta, Allan Gamboa and Roland Pascual, Blu is also getting fiery plays from journeyman Rey Mendez.

The six-foot Mendez, the oldest Blu player at 29, delivers crucial defensive stops likewise in tandem with enforcer Melvin Taguines.

Blu's Lou Gatumbato and John Paul Prior will match up with Miranda and Ybañez in the backcourt.

Blu mentor Leo Isaac is confident of a win. "I believe we're on the way up. The aggressiveness is back," said Isaac.

Blu, which lost to Ateneo in the finals of the 2002 Chairman's Cup, is aiming for its eight straight semifinal stint since joining the league in 1998.

Complete attendance for SEA Games

HANOI, Vietnam—Despite concerns over SARS, all 10 Asean countries have committed teams to the 22nd Southeast Asian Games to be held in Vietnam in December.

The 10 countries that make up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have submitted the sports events they expect to enter and the number of athletes and officials they plan to send, an organizing committee spokesperson said Friday.

However, some members expressed concern that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, may affect the event. On April 28, the World Health Organization declared that Vietnam had contained the virus after the country reported no new cases in 20 days, or twice the disease's incubation period.

Five medical workers died in Vietnam out of the 63 infected. SARS has killed more than 600 worldwide and infected nearly 7,700. Other major international sports events in the region have been canceled or postponed.

"We believe that the SEA Games will be held in Vietnam as planned," the official said.

The official added that all athletes and officials and visitors for the SEA Games will be required to undergo strict medical checks to ensure the virus is not imported into the communist country.

It will be the first time the regional games are held in Vietnam, which rejoined the SEA Games in the late 1980s.

The Dec. 5-13 event will feature 32 sports with more than 400 sets of medals up for grabs.

East Timor has applied to join the Southeast Asian Sports Council, but it's unclear whether their application would be processed in time to allow them to participate in the games, he said.

The SEA Games is the region's biggest sporting event and is held every two years.

Kuala Lumpur hosted the last event and Malaysia, on home soil, topped the standings with 111 gold medals. Thailand placed second with 103 gold, Indonesia was third with 72 gold and Vietnam was fourth with 33 gold medals, just edging Philippines.

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Rank	Open Road Race (Pros-Amateurs/20 laps)	Executive B (19-34 yo/8 laps)	Executive A (35-45 yo/5 laps)	Veteran (46 yo-above/5 laps)	Junior (18 yo-below/5 laps)
1st Place	P5,000	P5,000	P1,500	P1,500	P1,000
2nd Place	P2,500	P2,500	P 800	P 800	P 700
3rd Place	P1,500	P1,500	P 500	P 500	P 300

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AT A GLANCE

NBA PLAYOFFS 2003

SECOND ROUND

Eastern Conference

(1) Detroit vs. (4) Philadelphia
Pistons 3, Sixers 2
Game 1: Detroit 98, Philadelphia 87
Game 2: Detroit 104, Philadelphia 97
Game 3: Philadelphia 93, Detroit 83
Game 4: Philadelphia 95, Detroit 82
Game 5: Detroit 78, Philadelphia 77
Game 6 at Philadelphia (May 17, 7:30 a.m.)
*Game 7 at Detroit (May 19, TBD)

(2) New Jersey vs (6) Boston
Nets 4, Celtics 0
Game : New Jersey 97, Boston 93
Game 2 : New Jersey 104, Boston 95
Game 3: New Jersey 94, Boston 76
Game 4: New Jersey 110, Boston 101
New Jersey wins series, 4-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE

(1) San Antonio vs (5) LA Lakers
Spurs 4, Lakers 2
Game 1: San Antonio 87, Lakers 82
Game 2: San Antonio 114, Lakers 95
Game 3: Los Angeles 110, San Antonio 95
Game 4: Los Angeles 99, San Antonio 95
Game 5: San Antonio 96, Los Angeles 94
Game 6: San Antonio 110, San Antonio 82
San Antonio wins series, 4-2

(2) Sacramento vs (3) Dallas
Kings 3, Mavs 3
Game 1: Sacramento 124, Dallas 113
Game 2: Dallas 132, Sacramento 110
Game 3: Dallas 141, Sacramento 137
Game 4: Sacramento 99, Dallas 83
Game 5: Dallas 112, Sacramento 93
Game 6: Sacramento 115, Dallas 109
*Game 7 at Dallas (May 18, 8 a.m.)

* If necessary
TBD (To Be Determined)

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda

DA TOUR

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1) 3 Pts.
☐ True / ☐ False: The opening stage of the 2003 Tour Pilipinas took off from Manila last April 26.

2 > 5 Pts.
Who was the first man to win back-to-back Tour of Luzon titles (1964 and 1965)?
☐ Jose Sumalde
☐ Cornelio Padilla, Jr.?

3) 7 Pts.
Name the folksy ditty composed by Tour champion Jess Garcia, Jr., which became the unofficial anthem of local pro cycling.
☐ "Buhay Siklista"
☐ "Gulong ng Buhay"
☐ "Tayo na sa Tour"

4) 10 Pts.
Who became the first foreigner to rule the Marlboro Tour in 1977?
☐ Tonton Susanto (Indonesia)
☐ Ji Sung Hwang (S. Korea)
☐ Wong Kam Po (Hong Kong)

5) 15 Pts.
Who won the first true Tour ng Pilipinas in 1977, which covered 24 laps spanning over 4,000 kilometers?
☐ Domingo Quilban
☐ Paquito Rivas
☐ Manuel Reynante
☐ Jacinto Sicam

6) 25 Pts.
The first Pinoy cyclist to earn P1 million in prize earnings was:
☐ Renato Dolosa
☐ Victor Espiritu
☐ Warren Davadilla
☐ Carlo Guieb

7) 30 Pts.
This 20-year-old newspaper carrier topped the inaugural Tour of Luzon in 1956. He ruled it again in 1959, thus becoming the first man to win the fabled bicycle marathon twice. Who was he?

ANSWERS/ A30

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying; 9 a.m., 2 p.m. (r) and 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports - Qualifying action continues in Austria.

BASKETBALL: NBA Action; 7 a.m. (r - 7:30 p.m.); ESPN - Get updated with all the NBA information you can handle in this half - hour program.

Pistons vs Sixers, Game 6; 7:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.); ESPN - Philadelphia fights for dear life against Detroit.

Spurs vs Lakers, Game 6 (May 16); 7:30 a.m. (r- 8pm); Solar Sports - Take a look back at how San Antonio ends the LA Dynasty.

GOLF: Deutsche Bank - SAP Open 2003; 10 p.m.; NBN 4 - Second round golf action continues in Germany.

Goodbye, Lakers

LOS ANGELES—The three-year championship reign of the Lakers came to a decisive end Thursday as the San Antonio Spurs overpowered the tired, beat up Los Angeles 110-82 to win the Western Conference semifinal series 4-2.

Two-time Most Valuable Player Tim Duncan had 37 points and 16 rebounds, and Tony Parker added 27 points in San Antonio's one-sided win.

"We've been put down by these guys the last couple of years," Duncan said after getting 37 points and 16 rebounds to lead the wipeout. "More than ending their reign, that felt a lot better—ending their season and going on."

The Lakers have lost their chance to join the Boston Celtics as the only NBA teams to win more than three straight championships. The Celtics won eight consecutive titles from 1959-66.

"We've had a great run," coach Phil Jackson said. "We're happy to say we tried our best. It wasn't good enough."

Lakers star Kobe Bryant was less philosophical about the loss.

"I hate this feeling, I don't ever want to feel it again," Bryant said.

The Lakers had won 13 straight playoff series under Jackson, and were 4-0 under Jackson when facing elimination.

But in this one, they were out of contention by midway through the fourth quarter.

The last team to eliminate the Lakers from the playoffs was San Antonio, which swept them in the 1999 conference semifinals en route to its only championship. The Lakers hired Jackson shortly thereafter.

Jackson-coached teams had won a record 25 consecutive playoff series dating to 1996, and his nine titles are tied for the most in NBA history with former Boston coach Red Auerbach.

Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers with 31 points and 10 rebounds. He was removed with 4:34 remaining and the Spurs leading 98-76.

Bryant added 20 points for the Lakers and was teary-eyed when it ended.

"We have a million and one excuses we can go to, but the fact is we're not going to make any. They played better than us in this series," Bryant said.

During a timeout with 2:26 left, the Staples Center crowd stood and applauded the Lakers, who trailed by 25 points at that point.

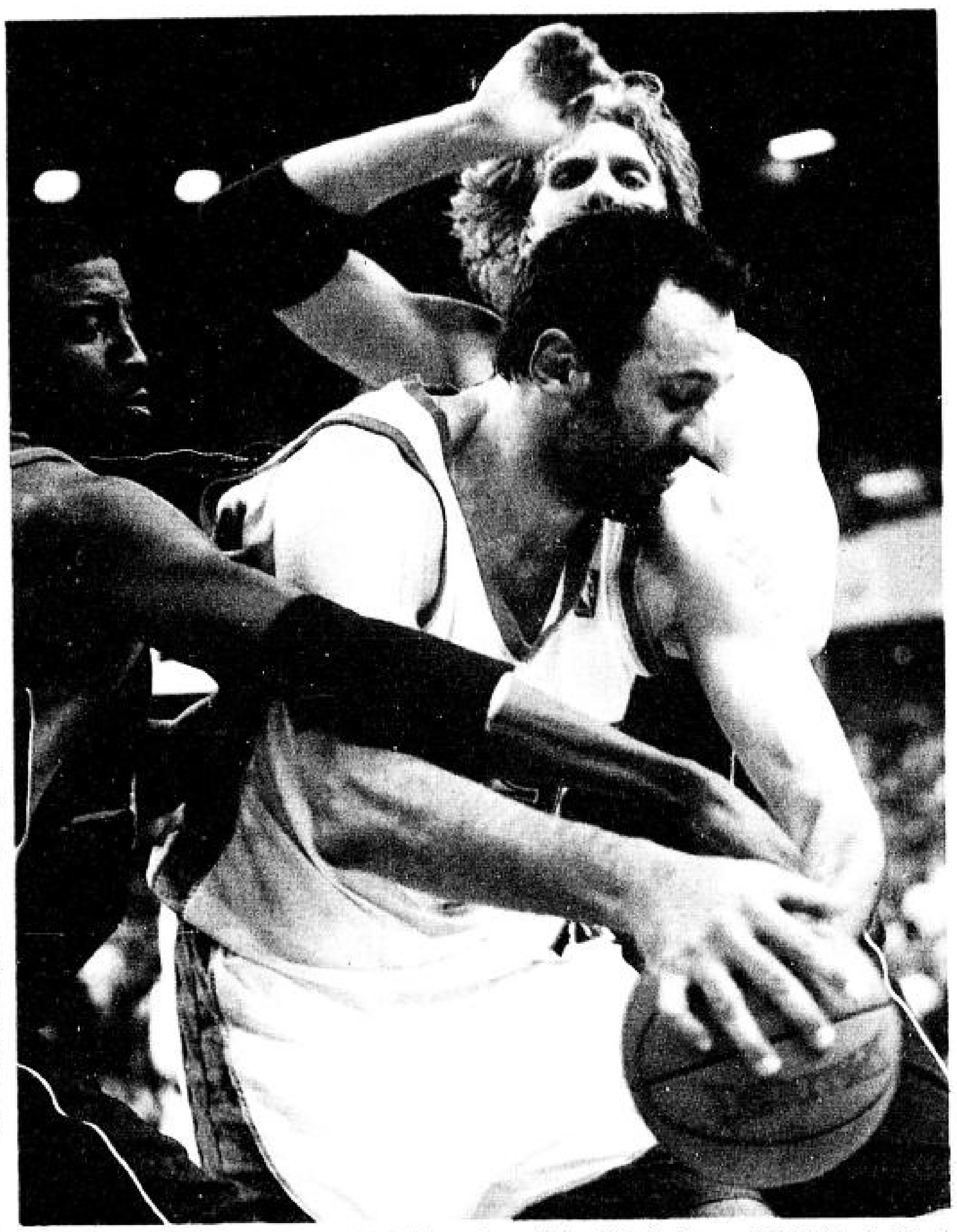
Kings 115, Mavericks 109

In Sacramento, California, Doug Christie had 20 points, nine rebounds, six assists, two blocks and a steal to lead Sacramento over Dallas, evening their best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series at 3-3.

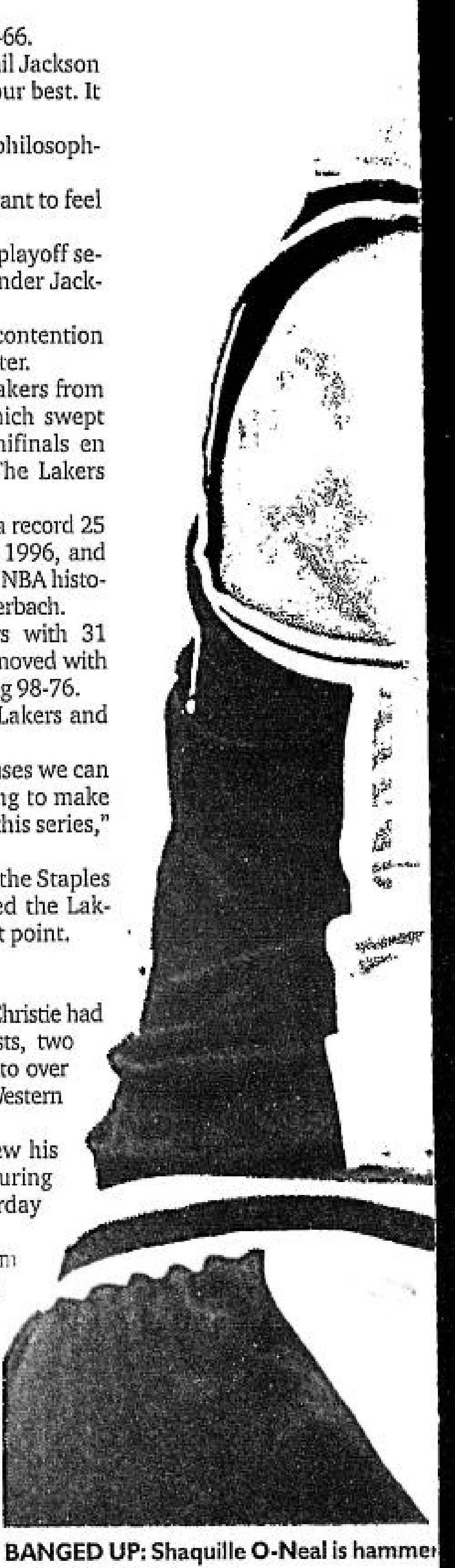
Kings coach Rick Adelman threw his arm up in the air in excitement during the final seconds. Game 7 is Saturday night in Dallas.

The Mavs remain one win away from their first trip to the NBA finals, while the Kings' quest for the franchise's first title in 52 years is still alive.

Nick Van Exel scored 35 points on 15-for-23 shooting in 37 minutes, and the Kings had no one who could guard him. He leapt high for a rebound and scored on a putback with 8:16 left for a 95-94 lead, but the Mavs then went cold and didn't get another basket for 5:05.



GANGED UP: Sacramento center Vlade Divac tries to fight off Dallas forwards Dirk Nowitzki and Michael Finley. The Kings defeated the Mavericks to stay alive for Game 7 of their series. AFP



BANGED UP: Shaquille O-Neal is hammer
straight championship.

Sixers coach willing to step aside for Michael Jordan

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania—Philadelphia 76ers coach Larry Brown made a pitch to retired National Basketball Association star Michael Jordan to consider a position with the team.

Brown said he would be willing to have Jordan take his job if he wanted, and the idea of all-time great Jordan teamed with NBA prolific scorer Allen Iverson of the 76ers could be an impressive link of stars from two eras.

"I know our players would love having him involved," Brown said. "I don't have a problem as long as it makes our franchise better and what better way to do that than get Michael involved?"

Whether or not the club's owners agree would be the deciding factor if any offer went out to Jordan, who played his final NBA game here a month ago.

Jordan, who in his prime led Chicago to six NBA crowns, ended his second retirement to play the past two seasons in Washington, where he had been working as the president of basketball operations.

When Jordan sought to return to the front office last week, Wizards' owner Abe Pollin told him no, a bitter end to his time with the club.

Jordan, 40, has already drawn interest from Robert Johnson, the owner of an expansion club in Charlotte that opens next year.

Johnson is prepared to wait until July—or perhaps even longer—for Michael Jordan to decide if he wants to join Charlotte's expansion NBA franchise.

Johnson said Thursday he recently gave Jordan his sales pitch, telling him the "door is wide open" for Jordan to come to Charlotte as a minority owner, team president, or both.

Jordan, however, told Johnson he needs time to decide his next move. Jordan parted ways with the Washington Wizards last week when majority owner Abe Pollin decided he didn't want Jordan back in a front office role.

"Michael said he has to be deliberate about looking at other options," Johnson said. "He told me he has to take these other calls. ... But I've made up my mind, he's welcome as a part owner, team president, whatever he wants."

All of the options available to Jordan are not publicly known, but no one is wooing Jordan as vocally as Johnson.

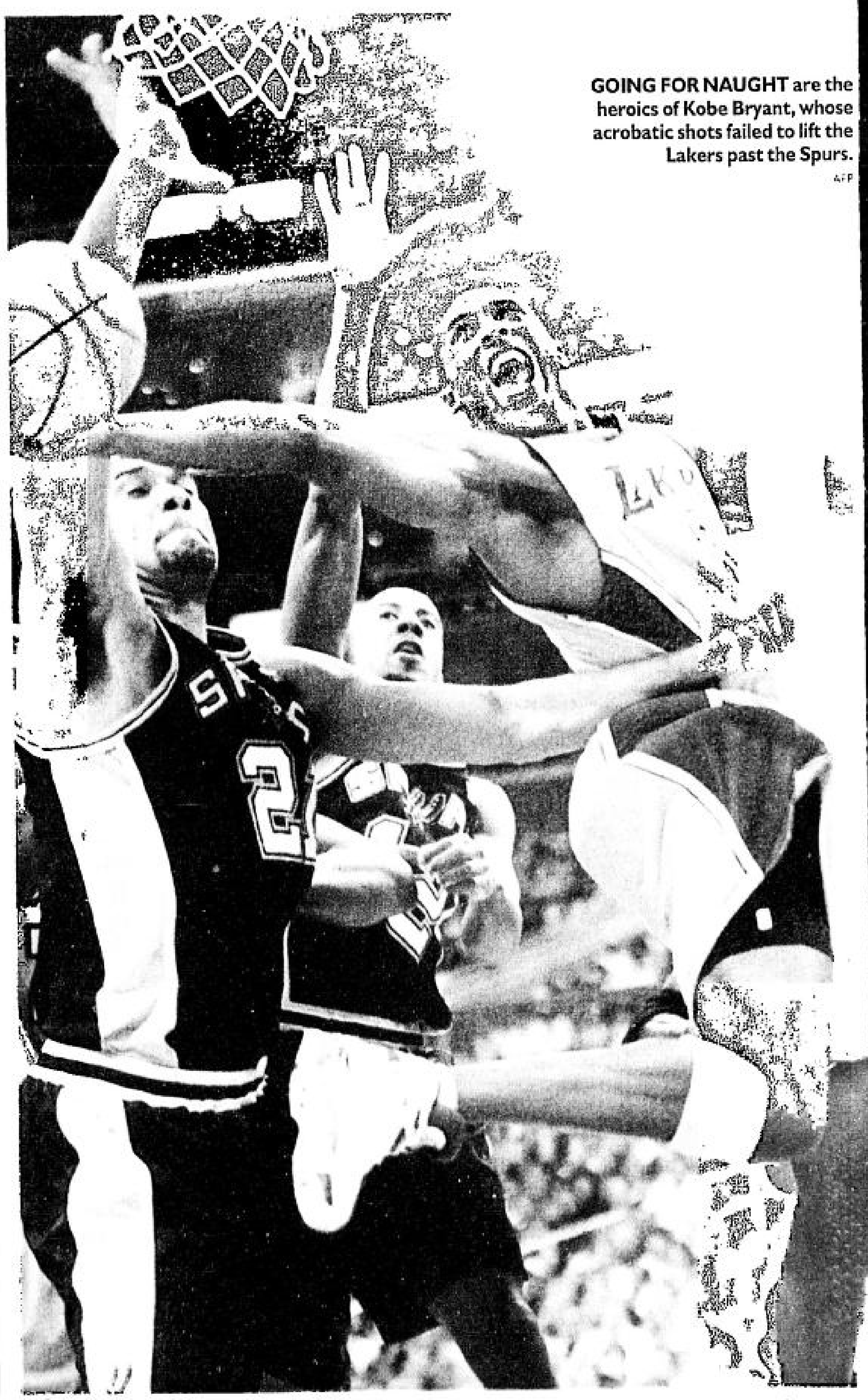
As soon as his split with Washington was official, Johnson made it clear Jordan could have any job he wanted with the team that begins play in the 2004-05 season. Jordan has been the talk of the town since, even overshadowing Johnson's $1-million donation Thursday to build a new YMCA in Charlotte.

Johnson and vice president Ed Tapscott want to hire a head of basketball operations this summer, and ideally would like Jordan's decision by then. They anticipate candidates for front office roles will be on the job market after the June draft, and they don't want to miss out on the right people because they were waiting for Jordan.

"If it gets to be July 1 and Michael said 'I need another 10 days' and if we had made a decision with some other individual, we still would make room for Michael," Johnson said.

Johnson believes Charlotte is the best fit for Jordan because as an expansion team, Jordan would be able to build it as he wanted. Part of the reason Jordan might have struggled as an executive in Washington, Johnson believes, is because he had to work within a system that was already in place and with an owner he didn't always see eye-to-eye with. *AFP*

Phil Jackson: W



GOING FOR NAUGHT are the heroics of Kobe Bryant, whose acrobatic shots failed to lift the Lakers past the Spurs. AFP

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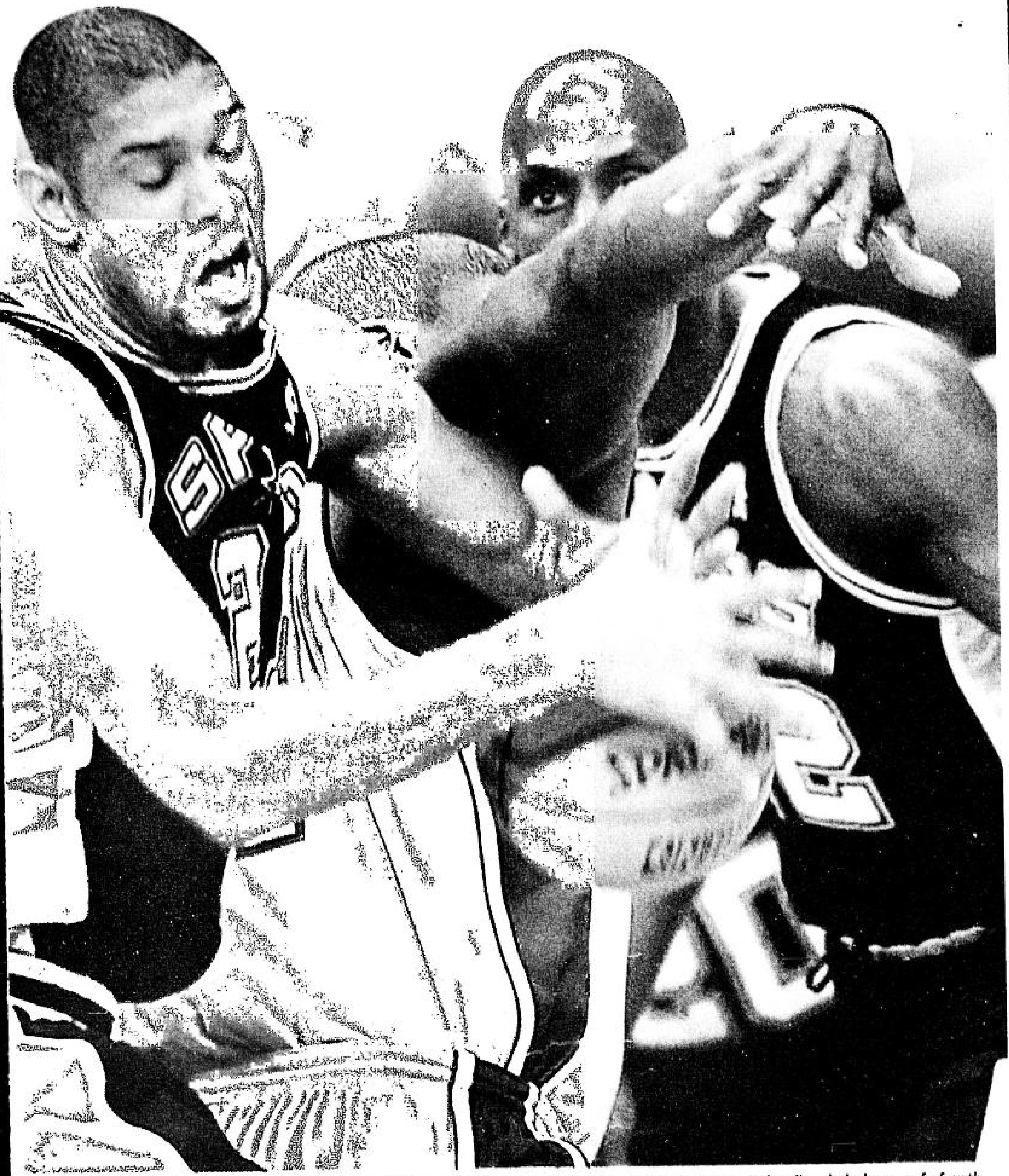


ed under the basket by San Antonio's Tim Duncan. The Spurs eliminated Los Angeles, eliminating the Lakers and ending their dreams of a fourth AFP

e had a great run

LOS ANGELES—Phil Jackson's most difficult season as an NBA head coach will not be his last—health permitting.

Arguably the most successful coach in NBA history, Jackson finished a season with a loss Thursday for the first time since 1995.

"We've had a great run," Jackson said after the San Antonio Spurs beat the Los Angeles Lakers 110-82 Thursday to win their Western Conference semifinal series 4-2. "We're happy to say we tried our best. It wasn't good enough."

Barring the unforeseen, the 57-year-old Jackson said he'll return to coach the Lakers next season.

"I have to be optimistic with my own personal health and the direction I'm going," said Jackson, who had an angioplasty last Saturday to unblock an artery to his heart.

Jackson has one year remaining on the five-year, $30-million contract he signed in June 1999. He said earlier this week he'd make a final decision on next season over the summer and not think about his future beyond that any time soon.

Jackson's personal problems began in late February when he had a kidney stone removed, causing him to miss three games.

"It felt like that just really knocked me back," he said. "I didn't feel like I was at the top of my game again until this week."

Another blow came Wednesday when Dave DeBusschere, a former teammate with the New York Knicks, died of a heart attack at age 62.

Jackson's teams won a record 25 straight playoff series—12 with the Chicago Bulls from 1996-98, and 13 with the Los Angeles Lakers from 2000 to the present.

The Spurs ended those streaks decisively.

The three-time defending champion Lakers were attempting to become the second team in NBA history to win four or more consecutive titles, joining the Boston Celtics, who won eight straight starting in 1959.

And Jackson was trying to win his 10th title, putting him one ahead of former Boston coach Red Auerbach for the most ever.

Regarding next season, Jackson said: "We're excited about replacing players who are moving on. I anticipate being back and coaching this team.

"We have a knowledge of winning. The fans have every reason to be optimistic that we'll come back with a revitalized team."

Jackson congratulated the Spurs, saying they left no doubt they were the best team in this series.

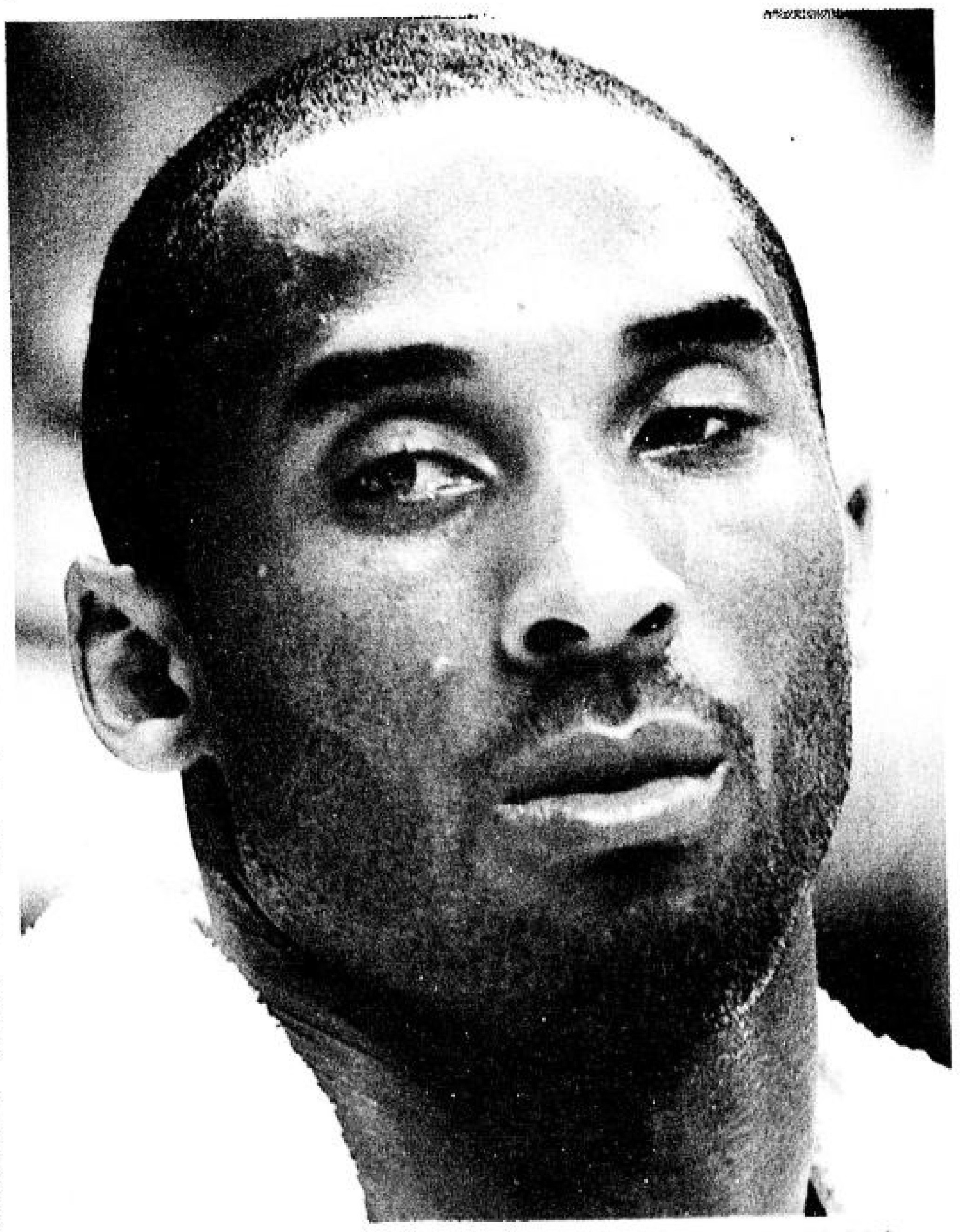
"We couldn't make the correct steps," Jackson said. "We stumbled, we fell, we had inconsistencies, we lacked some discipline as a basketball club and we paid the price."

Jackson has 162 playoff victories and his teams have won 41 postseason series—both NBA records.

Now, it's time for him to head to his summer home in Montana.

"We need that time, that extra month, to rest up," Jackson said.

He was talking about his players. Perhaps he also meant himself. *AP*



TEARS streak down Kobe Bryant's face in the final moments of the Lakers' lopsided defeat at the hands of the San Antonio Spurs. AFP

'The fans have every reason to be optimistic that we'll come back with a revitalized team'

KENTUCKY Derby 2003 winner Funny Cide stands outside his barn following a light morning workout at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York. REUTERS

Funny Cide goes for 2nd gem of racing's Triple Crown

BALTIMORE, Maryland—Kentucky Derby champion Funny Cide, the first gelding in 74 years to capture the American horse racing classic, makes his case for a Triple Crown sweep here Saturday at the 128th Preakness.

Funny Cide was a 7-5 betting favorite for the second jewel in American thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown, which also includes next month's Belmont Stakes.

No gelding has won the Preakness since Prairie Bayou a decade and no New York-based horse has won the race since Margrave in 1896, when the event was contested in New York.

Trainer Barclay Tagg's prized speedster drew the ninth post position in the 10-horse field, leaving an outside run for Funny Cide jockey Jose Santos in the 1 3/16-mile race at Pimlico, where more than 100,000 spectators are expected.

"There are a lot of things that go on in a race more important than post position," Tagg said. "It's a two-turn race, not a straightaway they are running.

"You've got to have a good trip. Your horse has to be ready and you have to be lucky." Funny Cide's luck held earlier in the week when a controversy erupted after a photo image brought accusations that Santos might have improperly inducted Funny Cide's Derby victory.

An investigation cleared the jockey and upheld the result, but the distraction added to the drama and tension.

Also boosting those factors is Peace Rules, the third-place Derby horse who starts from the seventh spot as an 8-5 second choice and figures to be the chief rival for Funny Cide.

"Peace Rules is the one to beat," Tagg said. "But he is going to have to have a good trip too." Peace Rules jockey Edgar Prado is winless in six Preakness starts while trainer Bobby Frankel has never won a Triple Crown event. But the distance is 1/16th of a mile shorter than the Derby.

The outside starts bring hope to the inside longshots. The egg shape of the Pimlico course makes the outside line harder in theory, but veteran trainer D. Wayne Lukas dismissed the notion.

"I think it's a myth," he said. "This race runs to form and the best horse usually wins it. You can't always say that about the Derby." *AFP*

Schumi eyes F-1 hat-trick

SPIELBERG, Austria—Ferrari's new Formula One car has yet to show its full potential despite being a winner after just one race, world champion Michael Schumacher said on Thursday.

"I believe that we couldn't show the true potential of the car and we will have better opportunities," the German told a news conference ahead of Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.

Schumacher gave the new F2003-GA a winning debut in Spain two weeks ago but rivals, particularly championship-leading McLaren who have yet to race their new car, were heartened that the car was less dominant than was feared.

"We were quick enough," countered Schumacher, who said tires played a big part in that race.

The German said Barcelona was a circuit that showed a car's true potential, particularly in terms of aerodynamic performance.

"If it goes well there, it is supposed to go well everywhere," he said. "I believe we have a very good car that should only go better, not worse." Schumacher, chasing a record sixth world title this season, is currently second overall, and four points adrift of McLaren's young Finn Kimi Raikkonen. *Reuters*

Undefeated lightweights to clash in showdown

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania—Undefeated lightweight boxing champions Leonard Dorin of Romania and Paul Spadafora meet here Saturday in the American's hometown in a unification showdown.

Dorin, the World Boxing Association champion, is 21-0 with seven knockouts and has not fought since May of last year in Bucharest while International Boxing Federation champion Spadafora is 36-0 with 14 knockouts.

Spadafora, a 27-year-old southpaw nicknamed "The Pittsburgh Kid," rarely fights outside his home region, makes the 10th defense of the crown here captured from Israel Cardona with a unanimous decision in August of 1999.

Dorin, an Olympic bronze medalist at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, lives in Montreal. The 33-year-old threatened to pull out because he was unhappy with the choices of judges and referee, but later said he does not expect trouble.

Dorin, who did not turn pro until 1998, won the WBA crown with a unanimous decision over Argentina's Raul Balbi in January of 2002 and kept the crown in Romania with a unanimous decision in a rematch a year ago. *AFP*

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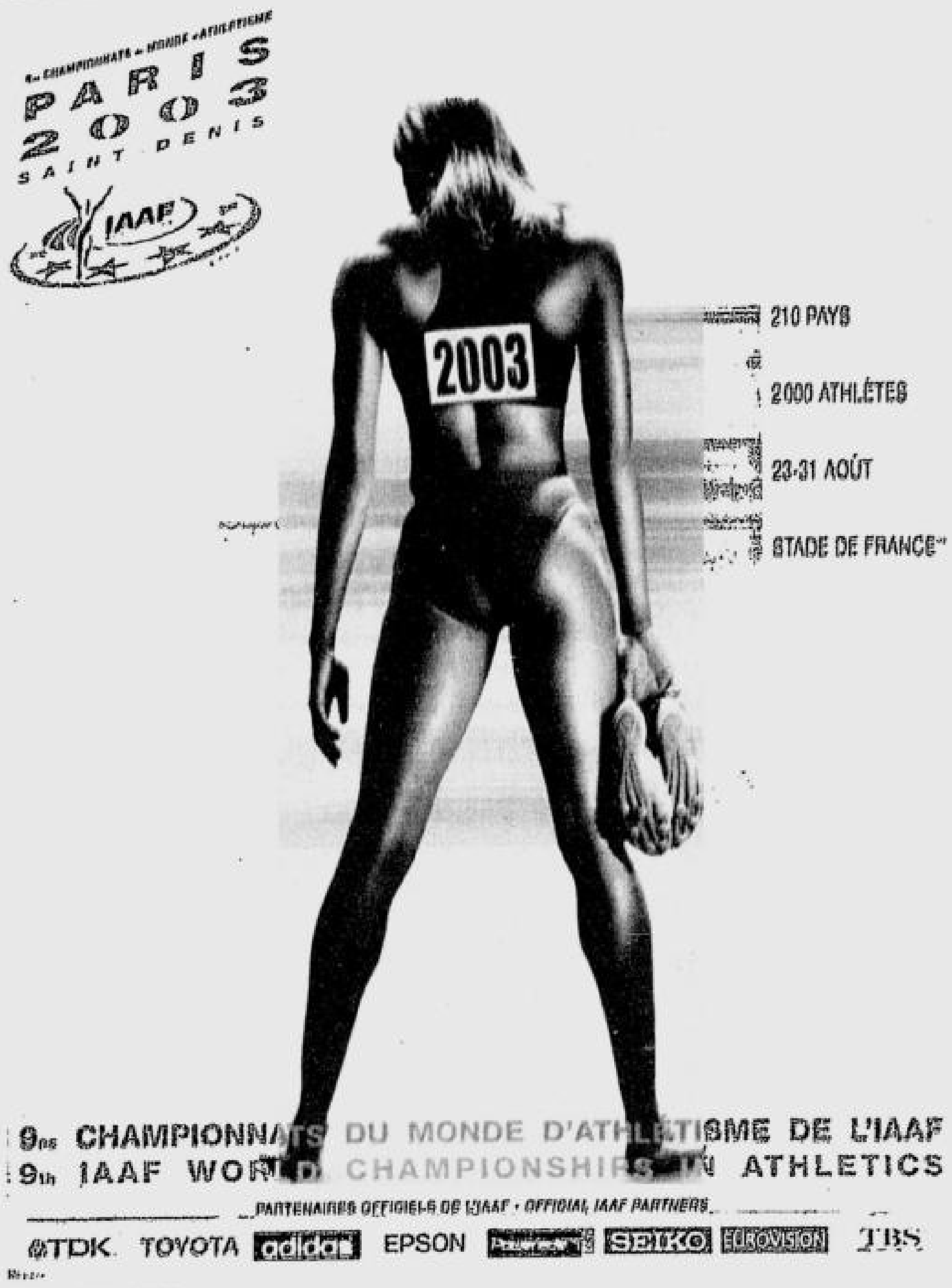
9es CHAMPIONNATS DU MONDE D'ATHLÉTISME
PARIS 2003
SAINT DENIS
IAAF
2003
210 PAYS
2000 ATHLÈTES
23-31 AOÛT
STADE DE FRANCE
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POSTER GIRL
French runner Maria Conjugo is featured on the official poster of the ninth IAAF World Athletics Championship released May 15, 2003. Two thousand athletes from 210 countries are to participate in the championship from August 23 to 31 at Stade de France in Paris.

Annika ventures into the unknown

LONDON--Annika Sorenstam's biggest problem at next week's Colonial golf tournament in Texas will be entering unknown territory, according to tennis great Billie Jean King.

Sweden's Sorenstam, the world's leading female golfer, will become the first woman to challenge the men on the PGA Tour in 58 years when she tees off at the par-70 Colonial Country Club next Thursday.

"No matter how much she practises, you can't rehearse for that kind of occasion," said the 59-year-old King, who racked up 20 Wimbledon titles during her remarkable tennis career.

"It's very, very difficult. But I think if she makes the cut, that would be just a tremendous thing." Sorenstam, who won 13 tournaments worldwide last year, will become the first woman to compete in a PGA Tour event since Babe Zaharias took part in the 1945 Los Angeles Open.

But until the Swede tees off in Thursday's opening round, she will have no real idea of the pressures she will have to handle, says King, who knows a thing or two about battles between the sexes in sport.

"Annika is going to be under tremendous pressure," she said.

"Just like when I played Bobby Riggs or when Martina Navratilova played Jimmy Connors or when Babe Didrickson (Zaharias) played in 1945." Sorenstam has repeatedly said she does not want to become involved in a 'battle of the sexes' during next week's tournament.

"I'm not here to prove anything," she said before winning the Nichirei Cup World Ladies' tournament by nine shots in Tokyo at the weekend. "I'm here to test myself and face a new challenge. I just look at it as the biggest challenge I've ever had in my career." Although King believes Sorenstam's presence at the Colonial will provide a welcome boost for the LPGA Tour, no matter how the Swede fares against the men, there is a negative factor.

"I think more people know her name now than they ever have and I think it's sad that you have to go and play a men's tournament to get your name known and to have that recognition of her accomplishments," King said. "That's what gets me upset.

"We only get 8.7 percent of the sports page, women's sports.

Forget women's tennis, women's sports.

"That's why it's very hard for women's sports to be known and be household names very often, like the men. It's sad.

"But I do think it (Sorenstam playing at the Colonial) brings a lot of attention to the game of golf. I think it elevates the LPGA." When Sorenstam launches her first round on Thursday, former tennis world number one King will probably cast her own mind back to September 20 1973. *Reuters*

Girl prodigy also playing with boys

BOISE, Idaho--Michelle Wie, a 13-year-old American golf prodigy, will compete here in September at a developmental tour event, one rung below the US PGA Tour, officials said here Thursday.

Wie, who already had announced she would play in a Canadian Tour event, accepted a sponsor's exemption Thursday to play in the Boise Open on September 18-21, making her the first woman to compete on the Nationwide Tour.

Only in the eighth grade, Wie already hits her driver over 300 yards. She will play at the Canadian Tour's Bay Mills Open on August 21-24 in Brimley, Michigan.

Wie will be one of three female golfers to compete in a men's event this season.

The most notable is Sweden's Annika Sorenstam, who will become the first woman in 58 years to play on the PGA Tour when she tees it up next week at the Colonial. Sorenstam was given a sponsor's exemption. *AFP*

Big day for Giles, Braves rout Padres

SAN DIEGO--Marcus Giles homered, had four hits, scored three runs and drove in another three to lead the Atlanta Braves past the San Diego Padres 15-6 in National League action on Thursday.

Andruw Jones homered and drove in three runs for the Braves, who have the best record in baseball at 28-13 with the victory.

The Padres are 13-28 and are tied with Milwaukee for the worst record in the National League.

Chipper Jones reached base six straight times in the game, with two hits and four walks, while Rafael Furcal had two hits, scored three runs and drove in another for Atlanta.

Horacio Ramirez (3-2) went five innings for the win.

He allowed five runs, three of them earned, on five hits with three strikeouts and four walks. Four relievers all pitched one inning to finish up for Atlanta.

Roger Deago (0-1) went 4 1/3 innings, allowing seven runs on six hits. He struck out six and walked five.

Back-up catcher Wiki Gonzalez drew the cheers of the crowd when he came on to pitch in the ninth, retiring the side without giving up a hit.

Sean Burroughs homered and drove in three runs for the Padres, losers of 15 of their last 18 games.

Ryan Klesko was beaned in the fifth inning and left the game. He was taken to hospital for X-rays.

In Philadelphia, David Bell's seventh inning single drove in the winning run as the Phillies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-4.

Bobby Abreu and Ricky Ledee both homered for the Phillies.

Rheal Cormier (1-0) pitched a shutout inning for the win while Jose Mesa pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Oscar Villarreal (3-3) was the loser, allowing four runs on two hits in 1 1/3 innings. Matt Williams and Chad Moeller hit homers for Arizona.

In Milwaukee, Corey Patterson hit a two-run homer in the top of the 17th inning to give the Chicago Cubs a 4-2 win over the Brewers.

The Brewers set an NL record for strikeouts in an extra-inning game with 24 as the Cubs swept the four-game series.

Patterson had three hits and three RBI in the marathon, while Eric Karros also homered.

Reliever Kyle Farnsworth (2-0) tossed three shutout innings for the win, allowing just one hit with four strikeouts.

Todd Wellemeyer pitched a shutout inning for his first save.

Brooks Kieschnick (0-1) allowed two runs on four hits in two innings to take the loss. Scott Podsednik hit a homer for Milwaukee. *Reuters*

Martinez rebounds for Bosox

BOSTON--Pedro Martinez allowed five hits in six shutout innings to rebound from a rare poor start to lead the Boston Red Sox past the Texas Rangers 12-3 to complete a three-game sweep in American League action on Thursday.

Martinez (4-2) struck out eight and walked just one before leaving with a 10-0 lead.

Only one runner made it to third base as he was dominant coming off a tough outing in Minnesota on Friday, where he allowed five runs on eight hits in five innings.

David Ortiz had three hits and two RBI to lead the offense for the Red Sox.

Nomar Garciaparra had two hits and drove in three runs, while Bill Mueller and Jason Varitek both had two hits and drove in two runs.

Boston had 16 hits in the game, including four doubles and two triples, off five Texas pitchers.

Alan Benes (0-1) went just three innings, allowing six runs on seven hits.

Carl Everett hit his 13th homer of the season for the Rangers, while Todd Greene also homered.

Yankees 10 Angels 4 In New York, Alfonso Soriano and Todd Zeile both homered, had two hits and drove in two runs as the Yankees touted the Anaheim Angels 10-4.

Derek Jeter had three hits and drove in a run for New York, while Raul Mondesi added two hits and two RBI.

Jeff Weaver (3-2) went 6 2/3 innings, allowing three runs, two earned, on eight hits with four strikeouts and four walks.

SPORTS noodle

Answers from page A28

1. False (Legazpi City, Albay)
2. Jose Sumalde (Padilla won in 1966 and 1967)
3. "Buhay Siklista"
4. Wong Kam Po (Hong Kong)
5. Manuel "Mawi" Reynante
6. Carlo Guieb (by winning the 1994 Marlboro Tour)
7. Antonio Arzala

MICKELSON: No objection

Woman in PGA Tour? Why not

IRVING, Texas--Three days after igniting sparks with comments about Sweden's Annika Sorenstam playing in next week's PGA Colonial, Fiji's Vijay Singh repsonded to the uproar over his rebuke.

"It didn't really bother me," Singh said in 78 seconds of talk with reporters. "I don't read much papers. I hear a lot of it, especially this week, but I was focused to play and I played really well." Sorenstam will be the first woman in 58 years to play in a US PGA event when she tees up next week at the Colonial.

Phil Mickelson, who months ago said he thought the Swede would finish 20th at the Colonial. After reading a recent magazine article, he's not so sure.

"When the US Women's Open was played at Colonial, one-under par won at a par 71," he said. "That meant 3-over would have been the winning score (at a par 70, how it will play next week).

And Mickelson also said he would have no objections to seeing a woman play full-time on the PGA Tour, provided she was good enough. *AFP*

New putting stroke puts Sluman ahead

IRVING, Texas--Jeff Sluman used a new putting stroke to find his form, firing a seven-under par 63 here Thursday to seize a one-stroke lead after the first round of the 5.6 million-dollar PGA Byron Nelson Championship.

Sluman sank seven birdies at Cottonwood Valley, one of two courses used for the event, to grab a one-stroke edge on fellow Americans Jim Furyk, Billy Andrade and Kevin Sutherland with Phil Mickelson and Fiji's Vijay Singh among 11 two strokes off the pace.

Sluman, whose father is recovering from a recent kidney transplant, has never been regarded as a bad putter, but he was unhappy enough with his stroke recently to contact pro Stan Utley, considered a putting guru.

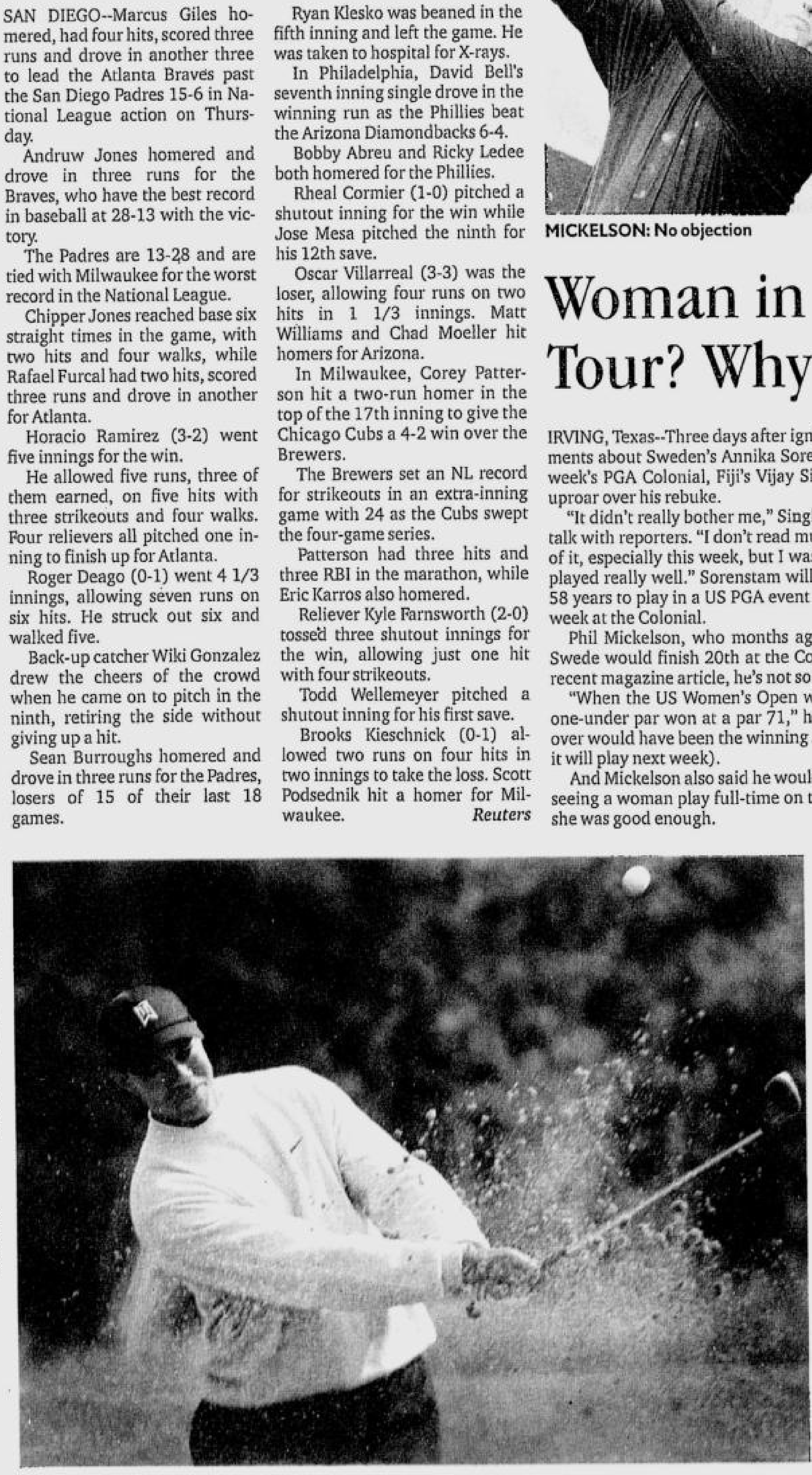
"I haven't made putts you need to make to keep rounds going, or to get that really low round in there," Sluman said. "I called Stan a couple of weeks ago and took a putting lesson over the phone.

"He's the first man who's ever really been able to explain to me what you actually have to do for a really good putting stroke. He put it in very simple terms for me.

"I'm in the infant stages of this, (but) I certainly like the results so far. I have to think that what he has told me is working right now." Meanwhile, Furyk played at the tougher Las Colinas TPC, where the average score was more than a stroke higher than Cottonwood Valley. It could be argued that he was the real leader.

Unlike Sluman, Furyk has never had trouble with his putting. He is among the best in the world on the greens, which is why he has made nearly 1.9 million dollars this year, seventh on the money list.

However, his only missed cut of the year came last week after two weeks off, so he went home to work with his coach, who happens to be his father. *AFP*



BUNKER SHOT bails Tiger Woods out.

REUTERS

Tiger trails Padraig by four in Germany

GUT KADEN, Germany--Tiger Woods was given a putting lesson by Padraig Harrington as the Irishman set the early pace in the Tour Players' Championship of Europe first round on Thursday.

Harrington opened a four-shot lead over the world number one, holing a series of outrageous putts in a blemish-free seven-under-par round of 65, which was later matched by twice European number one Retief Goosen.

"He putted beautifully, holed two long bombs and made everything he needed to make, holing one or two par-putts from about 12 feet, and that's what you have to do to score a 65," Woods said of playing partner Harrington.

"I scored 65 -- I just had to play the last hole still!"

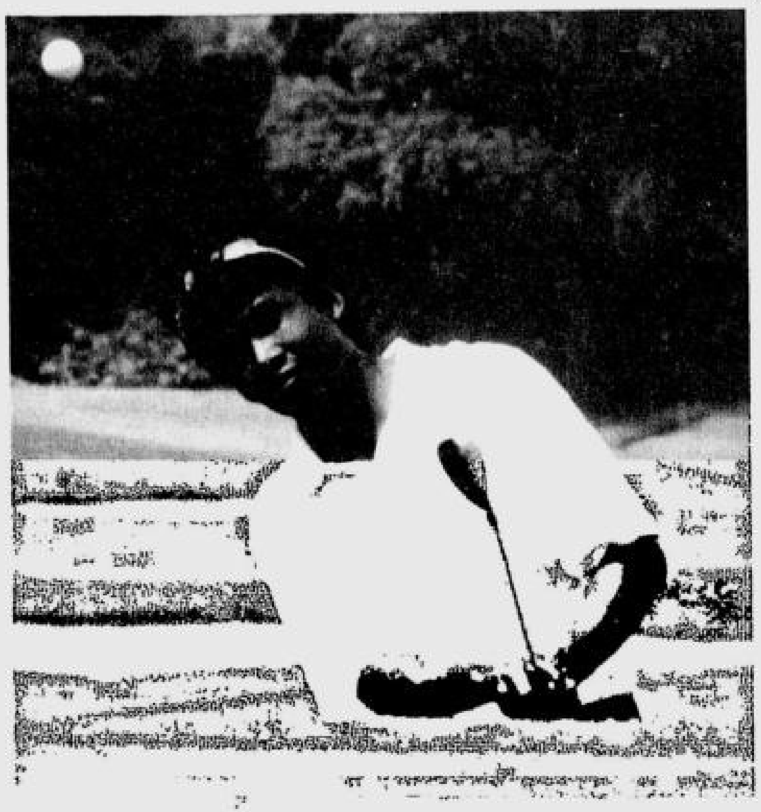
Ireland dominated the opening day leader board as the joint front-runners finished two strokes better than Northern Irishman Darren Clarke, rookie Irishman Peter Lawrie, who was second in Tenerife three weeks ago, and Englishman Peter Baker.

Harrington made light of the problems with his driver that have plagued him recently.

"I struggled off the tee big time," said the Dublin-born professional.

"I just couldn't generate any power and it was tough in the strong wind, especially playing against two big hitters, so I played to my strengths, hit a lot of three-woods."

Harrington struggled badly at The Belfry last weekend when finishing second -- his 19th runner-up place -- behind England's Paul Casey in the Benson and Hedges International Open. *Reuters*


PAGUNSAN pitches into the green. JESS YUSON

SANGIL's broomstick putter gets him to the quarterfinals. JESS YUSON

Delariarte survives anew; 3 Davao bets reach semis

By Jong Arcano

Matches Today
J. Delariarte vs. M. Dumandan, J. Bayron vs. B. Saragoza

JEROME Delariarte took out the man considered as the biggest obstacle to his repeat bid, needing two extra holes to get past Juvic Pagunsan yesterday and barge into the semifinals of the Philippine amateur golf championship at the Langer course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

Shaken by his near-loss to Joenard Rates in the first round, the 24-year-old Delariarte again came from the brink of defeat to turn back national teammate Pagunsan with a sandy par from three-feet on the second playoff hole, the par-4 No. 2.

Pagunsan, missing the green like Delariarte, had earlier bungled his own par-saving attempt from six feet.

Delariarte squares off today with Marvin Dumandan, one of three Davaoeños who reached the semifinals on a long, tough day where the surviving pack had to play both the second round and quarterfinals.

Delariarte blasted Southwoods teammate Erwin Vinluan to bits in their second round duel, leading by eight when the match ended on the 12th hole.

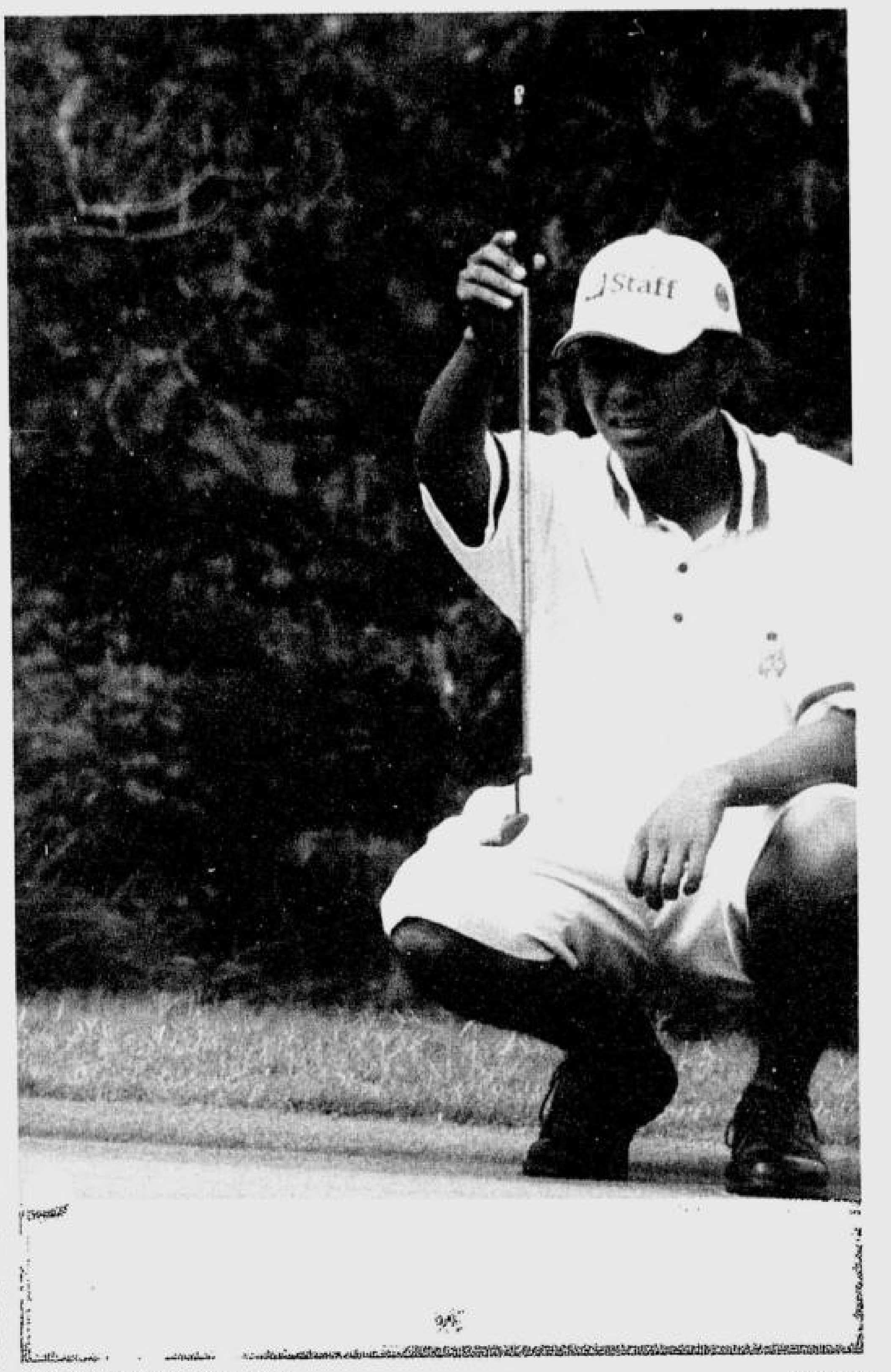
Dumandan played only nine holes in the morning round as Tommy Manotoc retired with Dumadan leading by two holes. He returned in the afternoon to show the door to a resurgent Raymund Sangil, 2 and 1.

Jay Bayron and Boyet Saragoza collide in the other semifinal encounter of the event sponsored by DHL, Philippine Sports Commission, WWW Express and DHL Worldwide.

Bayron, who once made it to the national team, foiled the upset bid of two jungolfers on his way to the Final Four. He outplayed Miko Alejandro, 4 and 2, before ending the big run of big boy Nonoy Negrido with a 4 and 2 rout.

Saragoza, one of the frontliners of the Canlubang squad, survived the challenge of the youngest player in the field Tonlits Asistio, 13, also via a 4 and 2 decision after upending Gene Bondoc, 2 and 1, in the morning.

It will be up to Delariarte to foil another Davaoeño winner in this event which counts the now professionals Cassius Casas, Antonio Lascuna, Bong Lopez and Gil Ababa in its roster of champions.


DELARIARTE lines up his putt. JESS YUSON

Dimabuyo, 2 others notch first wins

THREE first-time winners emerged in the Samsung Jungolf Tour as Aaron Dimabuyo, Anelo Asistio and Gabby Villareal joined record-breaker Wolen Superal in the spotlight of the Canlubang Jungolf Open recently in Laguna.

While most of the top guns in their divisions were out fighting a different battle against the men in the RP Amateurs, Dimabuyo, Villareal and Asistio grabbed the opportunity and finally went home with champion's trophies this summer.

Dimabuyo's five-over-par 77-234 won him the boys Class A event by three strokes over Gino dela Paz, Villareal (81-240) completed a wire-to-wire victory over Migo Ochoa in boys Class B and Asistio (75-231) outdueled Steven Bolivar by one for the boys Class C plum.

Still, it was Superal who made the big impact.

Superal completed another record-breaking week, winning his seventh consecutive title with a five-under-par 67 and in the process broke all daily records in the circuit.

After setting the lowest ever round in jungolf history with a 60 in the opening round, Superal also finished with the lowest 36- (125) 54-hole (192) aggregates.

Dottie Ardina strode home to a 29-shot win in girls Class D while Bino dela Paz exploited the absence of Miguel Tabuena to snatch the boys Class E crown in the event backed chiefly by Philippine Airlines, Airlift Asia, Exito Mfg., Global Lighting and Air Liquide, Phils. with Golf Pro as leg sponsor. Pisanti Golf, Bellevue Manila, Third World Eximport, HBW Enterprises, MCCI Corp. and BF Technology are minor sponsors.

Manila Golf starts bid against Southwoods

MANILA Golf Club opens its title defense against Manila Southwoods in matches kicking off the Federation Golf League this weekend in various venues.

Eastridge battles Highlands in another Group I duel while Mimosa drew a bye.

Opening matches for Group II will pit Forest Hills against John Hay, Alabang versus Orchard and Valley against Wack Wack. Hostilities in Group III kick off with Canlubang battling Sherwood, Malarayat challenging Riviera and Northwoods tackling Sta. Elena.

Two Fil-Estate teams, John Hay and Sherwood Hills, have joined the league to make it a record 17-team roster for the 2003 season.

Family bonding in the fairways

PAULINA Sotto with father Vic.

By Jong Arcano

GIVE the parent the chance to carry the bag for his kid in a tournament and you get real life images of how emotional attachments are enhanced. Right?

Sometimes.

When the no-caddie rule was lifted for the first and only time in the recent Canlubang Open leg of the Samsung Jungolf Tour, parents welcomed it with so much excitement the registry was filled up quickly, unaware of the stress that was forthcoming.

On-course disputes between a kid pretending to be a Tiger and a father acting as if he were sure of what he was saying were so common, even a veteran Tour rulesman would have had a hard time declaring a serious breach of the rule on parental guidance.

Bino dela Paz, 8 years old, almost called Bantay Bata 163 when his caddie-father Boy, a 30-plus handicapper, asked him not to lay up but instead go for the green on the 18th. The shot went into the water and Bino ended up crying.

JP de Claro also accused his bag-carrier, father Philip, of committing the same "crime" on the ninth. They almost never uttered a word to each other on the way home.

If only parents were allowed to whack butts the way they do at home, touring pro Mars Pucay's son Igor would have had a couple for "not following instructions." Of course, Pucay had his temper in check every time he saw the ball bounce a few yards from where Igor was hitting.

Just the yell of *"Sige isumbong kita kay* Mommy!" gets the heated situation all cooled off.

Television host/comedian Vic Sotto had a hard time containing his emotions handling the rounds of 10-year-old daughter Paulina as well.

This was something Sotto had been looking forward to ever since Paulina took up the game a little more than a year ago and he eventually just got a dose of the now-famous *"laban o bawi"* declaration.

Unfortunately, the man they call Bossing in his own television show was serving another Boss whose orders for the kind of club she was to use for a particular situation were final and executory. Bossing was meek as lamb this time.

Even the daughter had her share of Sotto's antics on the course.

She was even asked to pay for her own snack in the tee-house as Vic claims he didn't have any idea if he was to get refunded for the three days he missed his hosting job at Eat Bulaga!

While it was, as Jungolf president Gerry Handog said, all done in the spirit of fun, he is still worried about player complaints against inefficient caddies.

He's still verifying a report that a kid who scored a 120 was left behind at clubhouse and asked to walk home by his mother.

From Canlubang.

MIGUEL Tabuena with father Luigi.

IGOR Pucay with father Mars.

MARVIE Monsalve with mother Vanessa.

AR Ramos with father Ave.

SPORTS

Sorenstam sequel

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT is so pesky like a fly in sticky summer that I can't resist doing a sequel to it. I am in the mood once more to do one in defense of feminism.

Remember that Annika Sorenstam piece that came out here the other day?

It delved on the objections of Vijay Singh and Nick Price against Annika Sorenstam's participation in the Colonial next week. As I said, their comments reeked of misplaced machismo, especially Singh's. I still stand by that.

Said Singh: "I hope she (Sorenstam) misses the cut. She doesn't belong here."

Said Price: "It reeks of publicity."

I forgot to include Scott Hoch, who said: "Some people don't believe she should be out here–golfers and men in general. Most guys hope ... what comes out of this is that she realizes she can't compete against the men."

How to call them? Honest-to-goodness male chauvinist pigs?

An understament.

Cowards?

Bull's eye.

They are really that: a bunch of cowards.

While Price, the defending champion, feared about the klieg lights not falling on him, Singh and Hoch could not accept even just the thought of losing to a woman. And you call these men great golfers?

Now I know why Price and Singh won majors–they didn't seem to have trouble beating men. Against women, I hope they don't transform into sissies?

Now I know why Hoch is nicknamed Hoch D' Choke. He missed a 2-footer to lose the 1989 Masters to Nick Faldo. Is he afraid of missing one that short again against Sorenstam, a good putter aside from having won more titles than Hoch?

Singh is 40, Price 47 and Hoch 46. Why they act the way they did made Sorenstam, 32, bigger in stature than them. If this is the kind of men the men's Tour has been producing all these years, officials ought to review the code words used to govern the pack: gentleman of the first degree.

Sorenstam has not been reached to comment on the comments of the Ugly Three. If ever she'd comment, I hope to hear her say: "I thank the three for showing me the right reason to join the men's Tour."

Sorenstam having her husband for a caddie is already a sight to behold on the fairways.

But Sorenstam joining the Colonial will be the most refreshing bit of golf news since Tiger Woods won the four golf majors only a while back. Thus, golf's current Ugly Three railing at Sorenstam's history-laden appearance on the men's Tour smacks of boorishness of the highest order.

Why Singh sings off-key every now and then is not news anymore. Some years back, Singh was disqualified for cheating on his score. The harsher punishment was, he was banned from the Asian Golf Tour.

Oh, well, the cheat said yesterday he was misquoted by Doug Ferguson, the AP sportswriter who wrote the Sorenstam story based on his interviews of the three stooges.

"I actually said if I miss the cut, I'd rather she miss the cut as well," said Singh. "I hope she misses the cut because I don't want to have a woman beat me."

But the AP said a review of Ferguson's notes confirmed the original version of Singh's remarks.

Oh, well, you can't teach old dogs new tricks. And, yes, habits die hard. Cheats cheat at the slightest opportunity.

***

FASTBREAK. If he were around, Danny Floro would have turned 79 today and the day won't pass without a big bash Danny himself would host till the wee hours of the morning. Danny made Crispa the first winner of two PBA Grand Slams in 1976 and 1983. His managing style was the envy of everybody. He was the other half of Philippine basketball's "The Partnership" in tandem with Baby Dalupan, the PBA's first Grand Slam coach in 1976 (Tomas Manotoc was Crispa coach in 1983). As mentor of the legendary Crispa team, Baby disciplined the Redmanizers like a true-blue drillmaster. Danny spoiled them. When Crispa disbanded in 1984, Danny became this nation's most passionate golfer. The country's fairways and clubhouses were never the same again after Danny's death eight years ago. "With Danny's passing, golf lost a bright light," said Taby Tabaniag the day Danny died of stomach cancer on Feb. 25, 1995.

One Korea in Athens Olympiad

MADRID—Athletes from North and South Korea could compete together as early as the 2004 Olympics in Athens, officials from the two countries said on Thursday.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) members from the two Koreas held official overseas talks for the first time in Madrid on Thursday, the same day that the South Korean city of Pyeongchang made a bid presentation for the 2010 Winter Games.

Pyeongchang bid officials revealed to Reuters on Wednesday that plans for a unified team were under discussion for 2010.

The two countries now believe joint competition could come much earlier, if Pyeongchang wins the IOC vote for 2010 in July this year.

"Pyeongchang is the key," the South Korean IOC member Kim Un-yong said.

"If Pyeongchang gets the 2010 Games, it will make a great contribution to peace in the Korean peninsula." North Korean IOC member Chang Ung said that a joint team at Athens was already under discussion.

"It's on the agenda," he said. "If there's a will, there's a way." IOC president Jacques Rogge welcomed news of a possible joint team.

"We're very pleased," Rogge said at a news conference on Thursday. "Whenever the IOC can assist, we will assist. This is a very good sign–a very symbolic sign of what sport can offer to mankind." Specifically, Pyeongchang bid officials said the North were looking at joint teams in events such as football, basketball and table tennis at the 2004 Games.

North and South Korean athletes marched together under a flag of unification in the opening ceremony at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and again at last year's Asian Games, but competed as two separate teams.

The IOC's evaluation commission reported earlier this month that all three candidate cities - Pyeongchang, Salzburg in Austria and Vancouver in Canada - were capable of hosting the Games.

There are security concerns on the peninsula, where the two Koreas have technically been at war since the 1950s, but Pyeongchang officials are promising that a successful bid for their city would leave a peaceful legacy.

Reuters

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First Pacific seen keeping PLDT stake

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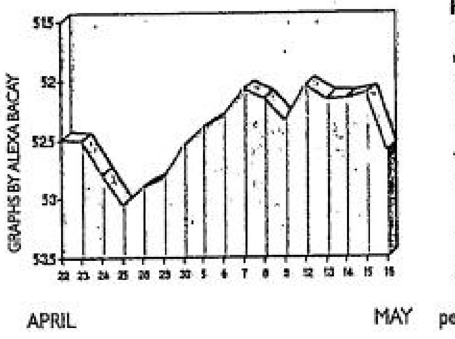


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P52.60 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2003

¥116.36 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 16, 2003

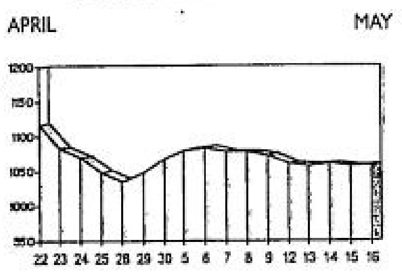
GOLD: $351.50-352.00

per ounce Hong Kong, May 16, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES edged higher yesterday after seesawing for most of the session in directionless trade.

First quarter corporate earnings were generally in line with market expectations and were mostly factored into share prices, traders said.

The Philippine stock index added 2.39 points or 0.23 percent to end at 1,059.53 points but was down 1.28 percent for the week.

The broader All Shares Index was down 4.64 points or 0.67 percent at 684.28 points.

"Generally, the earnings results came out more or less in line with market expectations except for a few surprises," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"Investors are waiting for further developments, be it external or domestic. That's why you are seeing very little trades."

Turnover rose slightly to P169.77 million against P152 million on Thursday. Losers outnumbered gainers, 29 to 25, with 27 issues unchanged.

"Unless we see big market-moving news ... most likely we will be seeing the same pattern next week," Plana said. Dominant phone firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) gained 3.11 percent to P415 as it played catch up with the share price of its American Depositary Receipts listed in New York which gained 1.54 percent on Thursday.

PLDT had announced that its net income in the first quarter jumped 58 percent year on year to P2.5 billion, beating market estimates.

Power distributor Manila Electric Co. was unchanged at P6.50 while its "B" shares gained 1.01 percent to P10 on bargain hunting despite a downgrade by an international ratings agency.

Reuters

Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said he remained confident that Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. would continue to hold on to its 24.4-percent stake in the dominant carrier as it poises to implement a "regional telecom strategy."

"The best way to pursue this (regional telecom strategy) is with PLDT. This can't be done without PLDT because of sheer size," he said.

He pointed out that compared with PLDT subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. and the PLDT group as a whole, First Pacific's Indian telecom firm Escotel was too small to have a regional telecom strategy anchored on it.

Pangilinan earlier in the year presented to the First Pacific board, in which he sits as executive chair, a two-pronged regional strategy that covered telecommunications and food.

According to the plan, the telecom strategy would be anchored on PLDT while the food strategy would be hinged on Indonesian noodle giant Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk.

First Pacific last year almost sold its stake in PLDT bundled with its majority holdings in property development firm Metro Pacific Corp.'s Bonifacio Land Corp. to Chinese-Filipino tycoon John Gokongwei Jr.

The PLDT board successfully foiled Gokongwei's takeover bid by refusing the tycoon access to PLDT's books as well as pointing out that a direct competitor could not hold a seat in the company's board.

Gokongwei owns the second largest landline provider, Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., which also commercially launched its cellular service last month.

Pangilinan said that "it had been manifested that PLDT was a core holding" and that First Pacific was well aware of the importance of PLDT in its regional strategy, especially with the strong performance the company had been showing these past quarters.

PLDT reported Thursday a 58-percent surge in net income to P2.5 billion in the first quarter from P1.6 billion in the same period last year.

However, Pangilinan admitted that neither he nor the PLDT board could be sure how long the Hong Kong-based conglomerate would hold on to its PLDT stake, no matter how well the company performed.

"As I've said, nothing is forever. The PLDT board can't ask for assurances that (First Pacific) will never sell," he said.

Right now, he said PLDT's focus would be to continue growing its businesses, which include landline, cellular and data services.

He added that when the company's "financial position is better," PLDT would possibly expand overseas.

Gov't agencies directed to submit list of idle assets

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALACAÑANG has issued a memorandum requiring all state agencies to cooperate with the Department of Finance in its ongoing effort to list down and create a database for all idle assets of the government.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto complained that of the numerous letters the DOF had sent to government agencies since last year, only 20 percent complied with the request to submit a complete listing of their idle assets.

"We have been getting a very lukewarm response. Agencies must realize that this effort is being made to have an idea of the extent of government ownership and not necessarily to sell," Recto said.

The move to create a database was initiated by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho last year.

Camacho earlier said that the listing of idle state assets here and overseas would help the government rationalize the use of its property.

For instance, the National Housing Authority has asked the privatization office to use the government's property in Davao for housing. But the pieces of property were not contiguous and Camacho said they only found out that the Bureau of Internal Revenue owned one piece of land that would connect the huge area.

Recto was tasked to head the effort of listing down the assets, arrive at a certain valuation, and identify those that can be used and disposed.

The finance undersecretary said he believed that among the agencies holding substantial idle assets were the Public Estates Authority, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Part of the hesitation among agencies could be the fear that their respective assets could be privatized.

A BIRD'S eye view shows the empty Kaohsiung harbor, May 14. The spread of the deadly SARS virus, which has claimed 18 lives in Taiwan and battered most business activities, could drag the island's economic growth for 2003 down to around three percent, officials and analysts said.

AFP

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60 more establishments found violating BIR rules

By Michelle V. Remo

MORE establishments were apprehended by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for various tax law violations during a tax compliance verification drive in Cainta and Taytay, Rizal, last Thursday.

Revenue district officer Josue Imperio said about 60 establishments in these areas were found violating various BIR rules in doing business. The most common forms of violations detected by the BIR were the non-issuance of receipts and the non-registration of cash registers.

Imperio said that courier service firm LBC, for instance, was found using an unregistered cash register. The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach LBC for comment.

For the first offense, this violation is slapped a fine of P25,000 which increases to P50,000 for the second offense. An establishment committing the same violation for the third time faces closure.

The 90 BIR personnel fielded during the operation visited 350 to 400 establishments along Ortigas Avenue, Junction and Andres Bonifacio Roads in Cainta and Taytay, Rizal.

A BIR report showed that only 15 percent of these firms visited were found violating BIR rules. The figure is significantly lower than the 90 percent average number of erring establishments caught by the BIR since the tax mapping program was launched last April 2.

The BIR warned all business establishments, especially those located in places not yet covered by the tax mapping drive, to observe BIR rules to avoid penalties.

The BIR reminded business establishments to register prior to operation and to display their certificates of registration.

Mine site reservoir eyed as water source

BAGUIO CITY—The former open-pit mine turned reservoir of the Benguet Corp. as well as the Budacao Falls and the former Black Mountain Inc. mine site in Tuba, Benguet, are being considered by the Baguio Water District for its multibillion-dollar project to bring water to Baguio.

Alberto Arenas, BWD assistant manager, said the original term of reference for the bulk water project called for the winning bidder to supply BWD with about 50,000 cubic meters of potable water per day in the next five years.

The agreement also required the winning bidder to deliver this volume to designated strategic elevated points within a 7-km radius from the Baguio City Hall.

A bidding for the project was already held in 1996. However, the winning bidder, Biwater, lost the concession before the project even started in 1997 after it sought an adjustment in the contract price to levels higher than its bid of P8.40 per cubic meter in view of the currency crisis.

The Baguio city council instead annulled the contract.

The BWD is trying to revive the project with a new term of reference.

Another problem is that the potential water sources are in Benguet (the Benguet Corp. reservoir is in Itogon town while Budacao and BMI are in Tuba).

Benguet officials said the BWD would have to talk to them and discuss the project before they offer the project for bidding. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GOINGS-ON

CBA signing

THE COLLECTIVE Bargaining Agreement between the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. management and the network's rank-and-file union was signed on May 15. Present during the event were ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III, president and COO Federico M. Garcia and the company's HR executives. ABS-CBN's rank-and-file union was represented by its officers headed by union president Jojie Dytianquin.

The agreement, forged in December 2002, was welcomed by both the ABS-CBN management and the union. Lopez and Garcia expressed optimism that ABS-CBN would maintain its leadership position in the market, helped by the harmonious relationship between management and the company's employees.

Tuition fee loan program

ASIA United Bank is now offering parents the AUB Worry Free Tuition Fee Loan Program where funds can be made available quickly via a 48-hour processing period. The loan program provides easy payments terms with a minimum loan amount of P10,000 payable in 6 to 24 months at reasonable interest rates.

Loan borrowers may even get the funds in the form of a Manager's Check payable to their children's school. On top of this, all borrowers will receive a free *"pa-baon"* gift pack from AUB.

The new product is part of the bank's Salary Loan Program, a multi-purpose loan facility available to qualified employees of AUB-accredited companies.

Cement makers get ISO seal

FRESH from acquiring international certifications on product quality and environmental protection, the country's local cement manufacturers are now setting their sights on another prestigious international benchmark, the OHSAS 18001 Occupational Health and Safety certification.

"All our members have recently completed the requirements for ISO 9002 and ISO 14001," said economist Rico Alfiler, who is also president of the Philippines Cement Corp. (Philcemcor).

AYALA Corp. chief executive Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (center) and senior vice president Martin Sandelin (right) of Nokia hold a press conference in Makati during the launch of "text2teach" program.

Text-mad RP tests education program via mobile phones

THE COUNTRY yesterday launched a pilot project with the UN Development Program (UNDP) to extend science education to poorer areas with the use of ubiquitous mobile phones.

President Macapagal-Arroyo formally oversaw the launch of BridgeIT, a $1.5-million project organized by a group that includes the UNDP, the International Youth Federation, content provider Pearson and mobile-phone manufacturer Nokia.

Under the system, teachers in some 40 elementary schools in the poorer areas of the Philippines will be able to use the text-messaging functions of Nokia-supplied cellular phones to order science videos from an electronic library provided by Pearson.

The videos are then downloaded to a digital satellite television receiver with a recorder function, connected to a television in the classrooms.

Students can then view the video as often as they want to supplement their class lessons, project proponents said.

The year-long project starts in June. If successful, the Philippine experience can be a blueprint for replicating the scheme in other third world countries.

"The purpose is not to supplant textbooks as a primary source of information but rather to supplement these traditional modes of learning with innovative tools that aid in the retention of knowledge among the children and youth," said Jaime Augusto Zobel, chairman of the Ayala Foundation. *AFP*

Equitable PCI generates $130M from tier 2 issue

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank yesterday raised $130 million in tier 2 capital at a coupon rate of 9 and three-eights percent.

The tier 2 borrowing has a maturity of 10 years but is callable in 5 years.

The local bank's lead arrangers for the long-term subordinated debt were Deutsche Bank AG and UBS Warburg.

Equitable PCI Bank initially offered $100 million but later raised the amount to $130 million given the warm market reception. The issue was oversubscribed by two and a half times.

Equitable PCI Bank officials earlier went to Singapore for the road show of the tier 2 issue. It also held a video conference with investors in SARS-hit Hong Kong.

Earlier, Equitable PCI Bank president Rene Buenaventura said that a tier 2 issue would bring the bank's capital adequacy ratio up by 200 basis points.

Buenaventura said that the bank would likely post double-digit growth this year on the back of expansion in loans and increased fee-based income.

The bank was also targeting to bring down its level of bad loans to P20 billion from P25 billion.

Tan to be named PNB director

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expected to appoint Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Ricardo Tan to the board of Philippine National Bank.

Tan will replace Norberto Nazareno, who resigned as PDIC chief for health reasons.

Sources said the government would retain its four remaining PNB nominees such as bank chair Francisco Dizon, president Lorenzo Tan and directors Vicente Panlilio and Flor Tariela.

The five nominees of the group of Lucio Tan, including the taipan himself, will also be retained. The Other Tan representatives in the board are former PNB president Feliciano Miranda and directors Domingo Chua, Macario Te, and Washington Sycip.

The government and the Tan group have yet to announce their plans regarding independent PNB director Alejandro Roces.

Changes in the PNB board will likely be announced during the bank's stockholders meeting on May 27.

. PDIC is represented to the PNB board in line with the agreement signed last year that increased the state's stake in PNB to 44.98 percent and reduced Tan's holdings to 44.98 from 57 percent.

The agreement came after the government converted P7.8 billion in PNB loans into equity and restructured the remaining P6.1 billion. Some P10 billion in debts was used to offset the government's obligations to the bank. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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COMMUNITIES

ACQUIRED REAL ESTATE

Chinabank not keen on SPAV

By Doris C. Dumlao

CHINA Banking Corp. is not in a rush to dispose of some P4 billion worth of real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa) through a special purpose asset vehicle (SPAV).

"We have our share of the foreclosed assets but our financial structure and capital base is so strong that we don't need to be in a hurry," CBC president Peter Dee told reporters at the sidelines of the bank's stockholders' meeting.

"We can hold on, 'wait for prices to improve. It's not that we are disposing. On our own we've been selling," he said.

He said Chinabank had sold about P500 million in Ropoa last year and another P250 million since the start of this year.

"It's been moving," he said.

Dee noted that Chinabank's Ropoa level was but a small fraction of the bank's total assets. The bank had a total of P34 billion in net loan receivables out of P107.9 billion in total resources as of end-2002.

Dee said Chinabank had the least pressure among the banks to use the SPAV model as its loan-loss coverage now stood at 69 percent or one of the highest in the industry.

However, Dee said the SPAV model could work with syndicated loans such as in the case of National Steel Corp.

"There is an Indonesian (investor) interested and this is being offered to the whole consortium. This is part of the SPAV thing that came out," he said.

On the other hand, the bank aims to increase its loan portfolio by P1 billion this year, but profits are expected to slow down compared to last year.

In the first quarter, Chinabank posted a net income of P765 million, 33 percent more than a year ago.

In subsequent quarters, however, revenues are expected to slow down amid the rise in interest rates while loan demand remains flat.

"Our goal is to reach about P2 billion, which is less than before (P2.6 billion in 2002), because the economy is hard to predict. We have an election and all that. It's not easy," Dee said.

Instead of expanding its 138-branch network, he said the thrust would be to make each branch more efficient.

"Right now, when you expand, you have to buy a branch. What we do is to train our people to be more efficient and fill up all the vacancies that we have and maybe there are better places where we can move our branches," Dee said.

Last year, for instance, eight branches were relocated to more strategic locations to improve customer access to banking services.

WG&A earmarks ₱600M for '03 capital expenditures

SHIPPING giant William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. has earmarked up to P600 million for capital expenditures this year, smaller than the P1.44 billion spent last year when the company purchased two new super ferries.

WG&A president Enrique Aboitiz told reporters at the sidelines of the company's stockholders' meeting that capital spending would be smaller this year because it would not buy another super ferry until next year.

"This is our normal capex, to be used in upgrading capacity, renovating certain ships, upgrading of engine rooms for better fuel efficiency. It's really worth making certain investments to really have long-term efficiency," Aboitiz said.

WG&A is also retiring certain vessels as part of its refleeting program.

"I believe that at the end of the year, we will retire two super ferry vessels. Slowly we're upgrading, bringing in and bringing out, bringing down the average age of the vessels. The whole idea is to continue to build muscle," Aboitiz said.

Next year, however, WG&A plans to spend $10-$11 million to buy another super ferry using a credit facility from the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

WG&A also plans to retire the smaller ferries plying the Cebu route.

"We are now also looking for vessels to replace the retiring of the ferries," Aboitiz said. *Doris Dumlao*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

May 14, 2003

REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 18-2003

SUBJECT : Regulations Further Amending Revenue Regulations No. 13-2003 which Amended Revenue Regulations No. 4-2003 as Amended by Revenue Regulations No. 8-2003.

TO : All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned.

SECTION 1. SCOPE. - Pursuant to the provisions of Section 244, in relation to Section 245 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (Code), these Regulations are hereby promulgated to further defer the implementation of Revenue Regulations 4-2003, as amended by Revenue Regulations No. 8-2003 and Revenue Regulations No 13-2003.

SEC. 2. DEFERMENT CLAUSE. - Section 3 of Revenue Regulations No. 8-2003, as last amended by Revenue Regulations No. 13-2003, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC.3. DEFERMENT CLAUSE. - The implementation of Revenue Regulations No. 4-2003 shall be deferred further until June 8, 2003".

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - These Regulations shall take effect immediately.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance

Recommending Approval:

GUILLERMO L. PARAYNO, JR.
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

Inquirer--May--17, 2003

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

NOTICE

TO ALL EXAMINEES OF THE GSIS
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM QUALIFYING EXAM

Please be informed that there have been changes in the two testing centers for the conduct of the 19 May 2003 GSIS Scholarship Program Qualifying Exam, to wit:

Former Testing Center	New Testing Center
• PASAY CHUNG HUA ACADEMY Pasay City	MANILA SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL Padre Faura St. corner Taft Ave., Manila (in front of Supreme Court)
• SAN PEDRO COLLEGE Davao City	HOLY CROSS COLLEGE Davao City

Pasay Chung Hua Academy has informed us that they could not accommodate the heavy turnout of examinees. San Pedro College, on the other hand, is presently under renovation.

Kindly go over your GSIS Testing Slips and check if you are affected by these changes to forestall confusion and inconvenience on exam day.

Inquirer--May 16, 17, & 18, 2003

CORPORATE EARNINGS

By Elena R. Torrijos

JG Summit nets P920.83M

JG Summit Holdings Inc., the flagship holding company of the Gokongwei family, yesterday reported that its profit in the first quarter of this year jumped to P920.83 million from P590 million in the same period last year on the back of higher revenue and other income.

Its telecommunications arm, Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., posted a net loss of P173.6 million from P44.9 million profit.

Steniel posts turnaround

PUBLICLY listed packaging firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. yesterday reported that it made a profit of P5.94 million in the first quarter of this year, a turnaround from the P51 million net loss recorded in the same period last year.

The profit came largely from the P13.7 million one-time gain of the company's sale of its manufacturing facility in Misamis Oriental.

EEI net income down

EEI Corp., the construction firm of the Yuchengco family, posted a net profit of P1.3 million in the first quarter of this year, a decline from the 3.6 million comparative figure registered last year.

The company also said that due to adverse market conditions, gross production declined by 38 percent to P676 million from P1.1 billion during the reference period.

ICTSI profit drops to P102.5M

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. yesterday reported that its profit in the first quarter of this year fell drastically to P102.53 million from P1.88 billion in the same period last year.

The comparative profit figure included extraordinary income recorded by ICTSI when it sold its overseas operations last year to a unit of Hong Kong-based Hutchison Wampoa.

ICTSI also disclosed that consolidated gross revenue in the first quarter shot up 28 percent to P1.4 billion from P1.1 billion in the same period last year.

Groupwide, ICTSI said volume in the first quarter went up 15 percent to 308,355 twenty-foot equivalent units.

AEV net income slides

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures, the flagship holding company of Cebu-based Aboitiz family, yesterday reported a first-quarter profit of P388 million, lower than the comparative figure of P511 million.

Last year's figure included non-recurring gains. On a recurring basis, AEV's P388 million in the first quarter this year was 4 percent lower than the P405 million experienced the year before.

AEV said its revenue in the first quarter increased by 20 percent to P4 billion while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization grew 30 percent to P1.12 billion.

INTEREST RATES

May 16, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 16-May-03 (%)	MART1 15-May-03 (%)
1 Month	7.1731	7.1615
3 Months	7.1708	7.1625
6 Months	8.1942	8.1692
1 Year	8.6208	8.625
2 Years	9.2423	9.1327
3 Years	10.2442	10.1673
4 Years	10.9461	10.8154
5 Years	11.2462	11.1769
7 Years	11.6846	11.6423
10 Years	11.9038	11.8519
20 Years	12.8039	12.8654
25 Years	13.3519	13.3615

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 16, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	15	15	15	15	11,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	35	35	34.5	34.5	190,800
China Banking Corp.	685	685	685	685	490
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	90,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27.5	27	27.5	105,800
Philippine National Bank	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	40,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	16,100
Security Bank Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	24,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	23,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1430	1450	1430	1430	60
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1040	1055	1040	1050	1,660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	2,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.71	2,230,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	560	560	560	560	5,910
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	5,400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	1,340,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	405	415	405	415	147,430
Ivantage Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	450,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	13,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	131,000
Manila Electric Co. B	10	10	9.9	10	324,000
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.06	2.06	1,502,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	2,900,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	350,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	2,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.72	230,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	31,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	10,600
San Miguel Corp. A	55	55	54.5	55	7,000
San Miguel Corp. B	66.5	66.5	66	66	87,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	409,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.14	2.04	2.06	200,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.12	0.1	0.12	800,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.22	7,990,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	500,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	2,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,450,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	267,000
Ionics Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.58	0.58	630,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	200,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	1,040,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.17	480,000
Music Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,190,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	11,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	40,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	1	1	1	1	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	79,200
Steniel Manufacturing	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	150,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.23	0.28	0.23	0.28	4,970,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.75	12	11.75	12	83,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.75	4.85	4.75	4.85	9,040,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	1,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.84	0.85	0.84	0.85	1,440,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	27,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	4.9	4.9	4.85	4.9	1,693,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1	1	1	1	110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Pacifica B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	517,610	15,671,275.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	55,357,040	100,415,205.00
PRO	13,900,000	53,260,860.00
Mining	10,540,000	252,600.00
OIL	15,000,000	57,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	95,314,650	169,657,740.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	353.87	DOWN 0.72
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,565.66	UP 3.12
PRO	437.35	UP 4.48
Mining	1,165.46	UP 2.30
OIL	1.19	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	684.28	DOWN 4.64
Composite	1,059.53	UP 2.39

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 81; NO. OF TRADES: 1,061

DISCLOSURES

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 29, 8 a.m. at Studio 1 of ABS-CBN Main Broadcasting Complex, Quezon City.

* * *

IVANTAGE Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 4, 2 p.m. at the Clermont Function Room, 22/F of Discovery Centre, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of May 4 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

IONICS Inc. disclosed that it has reached a full and final settlement with Tyco Electronics Corp. in the mutual claims that the two companies have against each other.

* * *

METRO Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp. will increase its authorized capital stock from P1.2 billion to P10 billion. It will also increase the number of directors from seven to nine. The company's annual stockholders' meeting was moved from June 6 to July 25.

* * *

ELECTED directors of China Banking Corp. were Gilbert Dee, Peter Dee, Hans Sy, Joaquin Dee, Dy Tiong, Herbert Sy, Henry Sy Jr., Yvonne Yuchengco, Harley Sy, Chia-Jang Liu and Pilar Liao. The bank also declared a 20-percent stock dividend and a P5 per share cash dividend.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

May 16, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.878426	1.000000	52.130000
Japan	Yen	0.007540	0.008583	0.447400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.424807	1.622000	84.554900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112634	0.128222	6.684200
Switzerland	Franc	0.663063	0.754831	39.349300
Canada	Dollar	0.635436	0.723380	37.709800
Singapore	Dollar	0.510921	0.581632	30.320500
Australia	Dollar	0.566398	0.644787	33.612700
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.330166	2.652661	138.283200
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234241	0.266660	13.901000
Brunei	Dollar	0.509439	0.579945	30.232500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000118	0.006200
Thailand	Baht	0.020915	0.023810	1.241200
UAE	Dirham	0.239177	0.272279	14.193900
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.138400	59.344800
Argentina	Peso	0.310398	0.353357	18.420500
Brazil	Real	0.300213	0.341763	17.816100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134674	0.153313	7.992200
India	Rupee	0.018678	0.021263	1.108400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231196	0.263193	13.720300
Mexico	New Peso	0.084286	0.095951	5.001900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503338	0.573000	29.870500
Norway	Kroner	0.127565	0.145220	7.570300
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015245	0.017355	0.904700
South Africa	Rand	0.110474	0.125764	6.556100
Korea	Won	0.000734	0.000836	0.043600
Sweden	Kroner	0.108999	0.124085	6.468600
Syria	Pound	0.020915	0.023810	1.241200
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025425	0.028944	1.508900
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000551	0.000627	0.032700

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YOUNG URBAN ACHIEVERS Success comes early. You are at your brightest. Time to build your future.

For young urban achievers, this is where it all begins. Verdana Homes is truly your dream home come true. A serene and secure community that's ideal for raising kids. A backdrop for many happy family memories to come. A milestone for your continuing quest for success.

Verdana Homes
BY COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

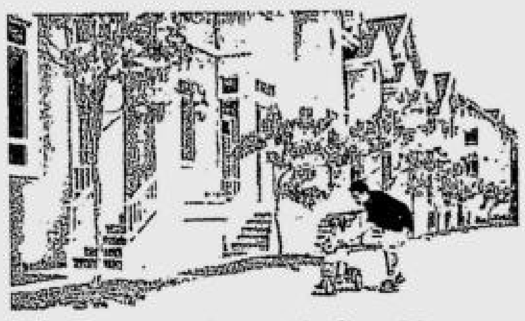
For the young, successful Urbanite who simply can't help but be at the center of everything, The Columns rises. Three towers that will rise at the corner of Ayala and Gil Puyat in Makati, serving as a relaxing oasis in the middle of the metropolis. "Live a few steps from everything."

THE COLUMNS
AYALA AVENUE
BY COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

Ayala Land's first cluster-community development in Visayas-Mindanao, Plantazionne Verdana Homes in Negros Occidental is a new concept in community living. It offers affordable resort living close to the city, encouraging family and community relationships. All in a safe and warm environment with all its convenient features and amenities.

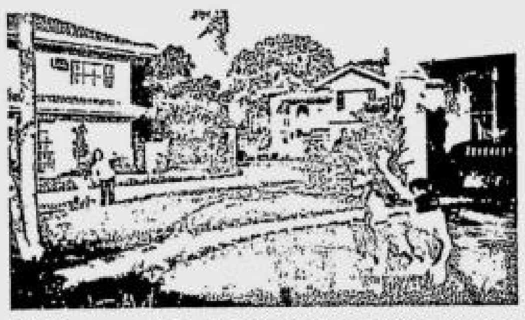
Verdana Homes
plantazionne
By an AYALA Company

AT YOUR PRIME Each day seems better. The future keeps getting brighter. It's time for bigger things.



Right at the center, in the quiet side of town. Montgomery Place can't be described any better. Envisioned to be a quiet neighborhood of quaint rows of townhouses designed along the genteel lines of the American South for early nesters. A pocket of green space within the busy city, a short drive away from Greenhills, Diliman, and Makati, nothing is too far away.

MONTGOMERY PLACE
An AYALA Community



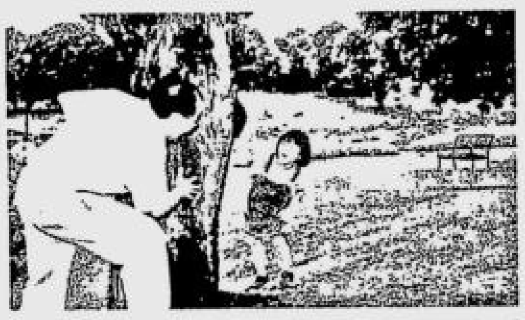
Mediterranean living right in the heart of Quezon City. Located near two of the country's premiere universities, full nesters will find this an ideal setting for their families to grow. Following a cluster-concept, it presents a novel approach to community living by grouping homes around distinct open spaces to encourage interaction and good relationships among neighbors.

Ferndale Homes
An AYALA Community

The look. The feel. The space. The ease of modern living. Cosmopolitan, yet comfortable. It's the life and style every successful and mobile professional deserves. It's a premiere home that sits right within Legaspi Village, in the middle of Makati's Business District. A home above it all.

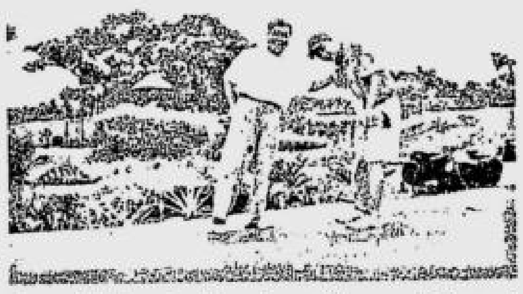
one legazpi park
An AYALA Community

AT YOUR PEAK The hard work. The long hours. Now's the time to reap the rewards.



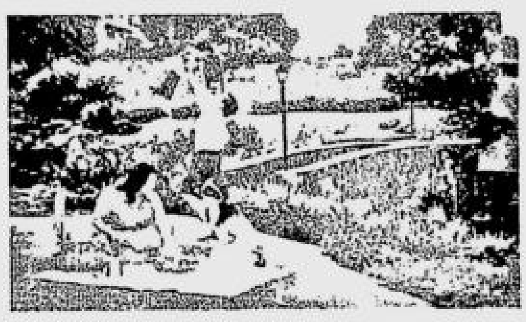
What could probably be the last vast patch of greenery in its area, Ayala Hillside Estates is truly a treasure. Imagine, 23 hectares of rolling terrain, meandering the Capitol Hills Golf & Country Club. Just a drive away from the best schools and the city's conveniences, Ayala Hillside Estates offers an instant escape from the busy city.

AYALA Hillside Estates



Set amidst breathtaking views of Laguna de Bay and Mt. Makiling is Ayala Greenfield Estates. A weekend getaway, or a home away from home, it is a world where the sound, smell and feel of nature embraces you. Each lot comes with a share at the Golf & Leisure Club with a modest activation fee. Now, weekends will never be the same again.

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES
An AYALA South Community



Ayala Westgrove Heights is envisioned to be the next Big Thing. It's a magnificent and sweeping expanse of over 400 hectares of groves, rolling hills and valleys blanketed by thousands of mango trees. This complete, high-end subdivision is situated in Silang, Cavite near prime schools. It's truly the land where memories can grow and love can last for generations.

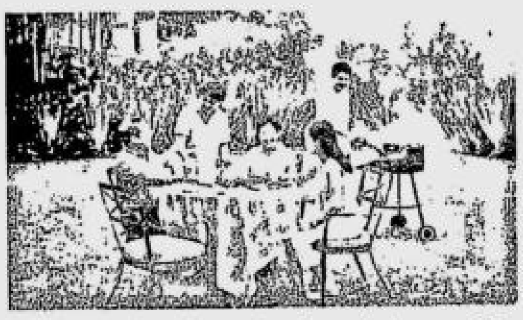
AYALA Westgrove Heights

A three-tower premium residential community within the prestigious Greenbelt Commercial Center. Designed to enhance the vibrant and dynamic lifestyle of the country's "movers", The Residences at Greenbelt offers all the comforts of home and the amenities of condominium living. It offers the convenience to enjoy the country's premiere dining, shopping and entertainment destination at any given time.

An AYALA Community
THE RESIDENCES
AT GREENBELT

The premiere residential address in Negros, Ayala North Point is a community following the village concept with a central core that will house retail establishments, a civic center and a school. Designed to work with its environment rather than altering it, Ayala North Point rises in harmony with its natural surroundings like river gorges and verdant fields.

AYALA North Point



An Ayala residential estate in a city ranked as one of the best in Asia, Ayala Heights Cebu is a high-end subdivision nestled in a scenic mountain ridge with year-round cool climate. This highland retreat within the city promises the comforts of home and an investment opportunity that is distinctly Ayala. A masterplanned community, Ayala Heights Cebu expertly blends the best of modern facilities and the rugged outdoors.

AYALA Heights Cebu

AYALA
COMMUNITIES

Each square meter is a store of value for the future

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AYALA LAND, INC.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Zuellig Insurance changes name to Accette

ZUELLIG Insurance announced their official re-launch as Accette, and unveiled a new corporate identity, designed to better communicate and thereby closer unite Asia's largest independent insurance broker and risk manager. This new identity has been rolled out across all Accette's offices throughout the region.

David Zuellig, chair of Accette Holdings said, "We are moving into a new era in our industry. Our position of offering innovative solutions combined with the old-world values that we were built upon - service and mutual trust - makes Accette unique. Our new identity reflects this distinct offering, of a personalized, yet international standard of service."

The new Accette logo, which is central to the identity, embodies this philosophy. The outer circle represents the globe, whilst the central figure depicts an embracing stance. The re-branding encompasses all corporate materials including a new website (http://www.accette.com).

Acette was founded by Frederick Zuellig in Manila in 1908, and has presence in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and China, offering a full range of solutions encompassing commercial insurance broking, risk management and consultancy, personal insurance broking, alternative risk financing / captive models and claims consultancy.

In the Philippines, Accette has three subsidiaries highly focused in their areas of specialization: Accette Insurance Brokers Inc., the flagship, providing non-life insurance intermediation; Accette Life and Accident Insurance concentrates on the life, accident and hospitalization business of various corporate clients while Accette Reinsurance Brokers handles the reinsurance placements for big risk of insurance companies.

For more information contact Eduardo Atayde at tel. nos. 840-1665 or 840-1728.

NEW PRSP MEMBERS INDUCTED

PRSP president Winston Marbella, APR (left) inducts new members of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during the oath-taking ceremonies held during the general membership meeting at the Dusit Hotel Nikko last April 25. The new members are: (from left) Anna Gizelle Camua, corporate communications manager of Zuellig Pharma Corp.; Emmanuel Gutierrez, executive vice president and managing director of DDB Philippines; Abbeygail Lucas, assistant to the vice president for corporate and external affairs of Mirant Philippines Corp.; and Joan Marie Salamat, corporate affairs manager of Bristol Myers Squibb. Membership application is available at PRSP secretariat. For inquiries call 636-3242 and 636-3243, or you can apply on-line, www.prsp-online.org.

FAESP SCHOLARS HONORED AT BBFI GATHERING

Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI) recently organized a simple get-together for its scholars under the First Asia Educational Subsidy Program (Faesp) at Gerry's Grill, Alabang Town Center. The scholars are Ivane Kate Dudang, Angel Lia Landicho, Jenny Rose Sevillena, Rusell Ann Tamayo, Pearl Joy Gueco, Arabelle Jean Bicos, Christine Jirah Duca, Rochelle Obrador, Lorenzo Cayaban, John Carlo Sonza, Jessica Louie Galutera, and Krishen Dullavin. During the gathering, BBFI chair Saturnino G. Belen Jr. and BBFI president Lorna L. Belen encouraged the students to apply themselves diligently in their studies so as to ensure a brighter future.

SLIMMERS WORLD BAGS AWARDS IN BENCH PRESS OPEN

Slimmers World International has proven its excellence once again in power lifting in the recently concluded National Bench Press championships held at the Farmer's Plaza last March 30. The Slimmers World International power lifting team sent a total of 8 delegates to the country's most prestigious power lifting competition, composed mostly of Slimmers World clients and fitness trainers. The team garnered a total of 5 gold medals, 2 silver medals, 3 bronze medals, with Anjanette Pe and Maureen Sun bagging the women's national best lifter and national sub-junior best lifter respectively. Slimmers World has once again proved that they deliver the services they guarantee to render. Other winners in the women's category are: Audrey Ortiz, 60 kg class (golf medal / novice division); Kathleen Ong, 90 kg (gold medal / junior and novice division). In the men's category: Arturo Feliciano, 67.5 kg class (bronze medal / novice division); Christian Torres, 82.5 kg class (silver medal / juniors division); Marty De Leon, 82.5 kg class, (silver medal / juniors division); and Renan Morales, 90 kg class (silver medal / novice division - bronze medal / juniors division).

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone No. 925-2401 to 50

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting contractors to participate in the biding for the replacement of peripheral glass windows at the Hospital Building. The following are the registration requirements needed:

1 Letter of Intent
2 Legal requirements
  - Current holder of at least Medium A under Building and Industrial Plant Classification Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)
  - Sole proprietorship (Filipino Citizen)
  - Partnership (at least 75% of Outstanding Capital Stocks belong to Filipino Citizen)
3. Completed largest similar contract or on-going similar contact ≥ 50% of ABC
4. Contractor's Performance Evaluation System (CPES) rating and/or certificate of completion and owners acceptance

DESCRIPTION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
Replacement of Peripheral Glass Windows of Hospital Building	P11,623,893.54	P11,623.89

Source of Funding PHC FUNDS
Terms of Payment shall be based on the provision of the contract as attached in the Terms of Reference

The lists of eligibility requirements will be issued at Bids and Awards Secretariat (BAC), Purchasing Division, PHC, Basement, MAB, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 28, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574.

The agency reserves the right to reject any & all bids or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officer or employees of the agency or the BAC & any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders & third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bid received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided in their E.O. 40 IRR pertaining to the substance of a bid.

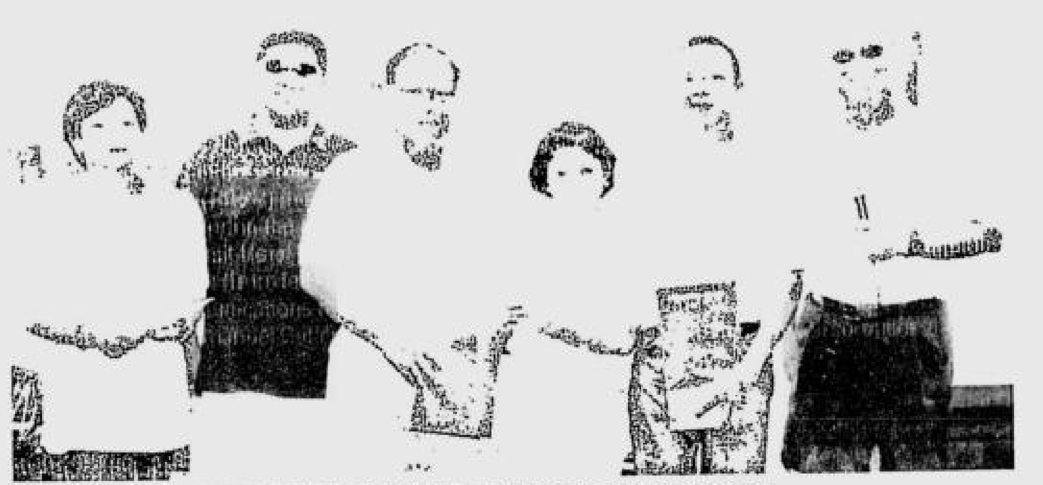
(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman BAC

(PDI - May 10, 11, 17 & 18, 2003)

Canon launches raffle promo

BUY A camera and have the chance to win a brand new Isuzu Crosswind XUV or P700,000 cash or other prizes. Dubbed "May BF Ka Na Ba", the raffle promo is open to all buyers of any Canon camera (in cash or in card) from any Canon showrooms, retail outlets and authorized dealers nationwide. The raffle promo includes purchases of Prima BF-800 which is sold at P1,995. Buyers of Prima BF-800 can get 24 shots ASA 400 film and two pieces alkaline battery. Other prizes are: 2nd, 10 winners of ASI all weather camera and 3rd, 20 winners, BF-800.

Each purchase of any Canon camera entitles the customer to one raffle coupon regardless of price. The deadline for dropping of the raffle coupon is on May 31. Mailed entries should be received not later than June 10. The draw will be held on June 15 at 4 p.m. at the Canon showroom, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City in the presence of a DTI representative. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For GMA and grand prize winners, they can claim their prizes at the Canon showroom, 5th floor, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. For provincial winners, they can claim their prizes at the nearest Canon showroom specified in the mail.



CATHAY PACIFIC FLIES JAGUAR GOLF CHAMPS TO UK

Modesto Cervantes and Eduardo Lopez III are off for the UK this May to represent Jaguar Philippines in the Jaguar World Golf Finals in Scotland. The winning tandem bested more than 200 participants in the recently concluded 4th Jaguar Golf Invitational last March 17 to 21 held at The Country Club. The five day tournament was by far the most exciting and richest Jaguar Golf Invitational with three hole-in-one prizes at stake including a brand new Jaguar X-Type 2.0 litre, a cruise to the Mexican Riviera or the Carribean, and a state-of-the-art Osim massage chair. Shown in photo are (from left), Theresa Abad, administration manager of Jaguar Philippines; Marc Soong, executive director of Jaguar Philippines; Cathay's assistant marketing manager Rhoda Capuno Lopez; and Wellington C. Soong, chair and president of Jaguar Philippines.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP), hereinafter called "the Government" through the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) hereinafter called "the Employer", invites interested local and foreign contractors to apply for Eligibility and Prequalification and if prequalified, to bid for the STP Rehabilitation Project of the Special Economic Zone Environment Management Project — Bataan Economic Zone.
2. This is the second invitation to Prequalify/Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for SEZEMP-Bataan, STP Rehabilitation Project. Nobody pre-qualified in the first invitation. The project description is still the same particularly.
3. Budgetary Project Cost : P 120M
   Source of Fund GOP (PEZA)
   Construction Period 365 Calendar Days
   Tentative Starting Date September, 2003
   SCOPE OF WORK
   a. Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant (Rated Capacity 15,500 cu.m. / day)
   b. Construction of New Sludge Drying Bed (Approx. 9,000 sq m.)
   c. Repair of Existing Sludge Pump Room, Admin. and Disinfections Bldg., (approx. 1,800 sq.m.)
   d. Construction of New Guard House (approx. 6 sq.m.)
   e. Rehabilitation of Existing Road and Landscaping (Approx. 11,300 sq.m.)
4. The application of pre-qualification is open to bona fide qualified contractor from all countries and areas. Foreign Contractor Applicants should be licensed in their own country/area, or has filed an application for Special License at PCAB, and must satisfy with the requirements of EO 40, i.e. forming themselves into joint venture with local contractor, and Local Contractor Applicants must be holding PCAB "AAA" License & Certificate of Registration and Classification of Contractors as Large "B" for Sewerage or Sewage System and/or Water Treatment Plant and System.
5. Contractors forming themselves into a Joint Venture shall comply with the provisions for the procurement of civil works under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 40, series of 2001 (EO 40).
6. In view of the size of the project and relative advanced construction and technology required, eligible contractors shall have an adequate expertise and experience in the similar projects. The Applicant must meet the following minimum requirement.
   - The value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices completed and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.
   - Successful experience in the execution of construction and/or rehabilitation projects of at least three (3) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having a capacity of at least 1,000 cu.m. per day or at least one (1) sewerage/water treatment plant/system having the capacity of 15,000 cu.m. per day comparable to the proposed project within the last ten (10) years.
   - The prospective Applicant's Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) based on his net working capital must be at least equal to the estimated budget for the contract.
7. Pre-qualification Document may be procured upon submission of the following:
   Letter of Intent, Authorization to Purchase Document, certified true copy of the Contractor's License and Certificate of Registration and Classification (for Local Contractor); and license in their own country/area (for Foreign Contractors).
8. Prequalification document will be made available for issuance starting March 21, 2003 at the PEZA-SEZEMP Office c/o BAC Secretariat, 3/F Almeda Building, Roxas Blvd., cor. San Luis St., Pasay City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00. The deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification Documents in sealed envelope (1-original & 5-copies) shall be on June 02, 2003, not later than 5.00 PM at the same venue mentioned above.
9. PEZA shall notify the Applicants regarding the results of the Pre-qualification evaluation on or about June 25, 2003. The plans and Bid Documents shall be issued by PEZA not later than June 26, 2003, upon payment by the pre-qualified contractor's of non-refundable amount of P30,000.00.
10. The tentative schedule of the Site Inspection and Pre-bid Conference is on **July 14 and July 21, 2003**, respectively. Moreover, the date of bidding shall be on **August 11, 2003**; wherein the dropping and opening of bids shall be held at the same venue as stated above at 10.00 AM.
11. All particulars relative to the procurement of the contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40, series 2001 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulation.
12. PEZA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects contained therein, and accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

BAC-Chairman
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

(PDI - May 10 & 17, 2003)

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION AND BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan to eligible payment under the contracts for which this Invitation for Qualification and Bid is issued.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission as the Executing Agency and the City Government of Manila as the Implementing Agency are inviting CONTRACTORS to apply for Qualification and Bid for the following linear park packages:

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
1 Sta. Ana Market Linear Park	EPA-LPP-11	1,505m^2	Near Plaza Calderon, Sta. Ana, Manila	90 Calendar days	Community Park and Promenade
2. Muelle del Banco Nacional	EPA-LPP-12	1,800m^2	Muelle del Banco Road, Escolta Area (between Jones Bridge and MacArthur Bridge)	90 Calendar Days	Promenade with Café

Interested contractors will be required to submit their accomplished qualification documents and bid proposals at the same time in two (2) separate sealed envelopes. The envelope containing the bid will be kept in a sealed box, which will not be opened until after the completion of the qualification evaluation, and the list of qualified contractors has been finalized. Only the bids of qualified contractors will be opened on the date of bid opening. The bids of disqualified contractors will be returned unopened.

Interested contractors may obtain further information and secure the qualification and bid documents at the following address:

Flagship Projects Management Office
Museo ng Maynila
T.M. Kalaw St. corner Roxas Boulevard, Manila
Telephone No. 528-1136

A complete set of qualification and bid documents may be secured by interested contractors from the above address from **12 May 2003**, upon submission of a letter of intent and proof of payment (receipt) from PRRC of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) per contract package. Interested contractors are requested to pay at the PRRC office, 2nd Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, before securing the qualification and bid documents at the Flagship Projects Management Office, Museo ng Maynila.

Site Inspection and Pre-Bid Conference is on 30 May 2003, 10 a.m. at the Conference Room of the above-mentioned address. The accomplished qualification documents and the bid in two (2) separate sealed envelopes must be submitted to the same office before 1200 hours on 30 June 2003. The date of bid opening will be announced later.

The contractors shall submit together with qualification documents a notarized sworn statement stating their project workload as of date of bidding, including newly awarded but not yet started contracts with corresponding contract amount.

All particulars relative to Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the ADB Procurement Guidelines and other pertinent laws and regulations. The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive minor informalities, or accept such bids which will be the most advantageous to the government. The decision of BAC is final and binding.

(Sgd.) DEOGRACIAS J. TABLAN, JR.
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 10 & 17, 2003)

Product FILES

Summer trippin' with Bobson's duffel bags

REARING to go on your ultimate summer getaway? Pack all your essentials and go summer trippin' with Bobson's duffel bags. Simply purchase a minimum of P700 worth of Bobson regular priced items and get the bag for free. Load it up with hot and cool Bobson summer clothes and make waves wherever you go. This promo is available at all Bobson boutiques and outlets nationwide from April 1 to May 31. Choose from red, blue and green or collect them all.

Japan's economy sees no growth in first quarter

TOKYO—Japan's economy ground to a halt in the three months to March as resilient spending by companies and consumers was offset by slumping exports and a record slide in prices, the government said Friday.

On an annualized basis, gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the world's second-biggest economy was also flat during the quarter.

The figures marked the first period of zero expansion in four quarters and economists warned Japan could shift into reverse during the three months to June as the spread of SARS in Asia takes its toll on exports.

"The main point of this data is deflation is still severe," Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Heizo Takenaka told a news conference.

The first quarter GDP deflator, a measure of price movements, plunged 3.5 percent from the previous year, down for the 20th straight quarter and the sharpest drop on record.

Deflation, which has restricted growth since the mid-1990s, erodes corporate profits and deters consumption as people wait for prices to fall further.

Despite the worrying price slide, Japan's economy expanded 1.6 percent in the full year to March, beating the government's goal of 0.9 percent growth and reversing the 1.2 percent contraction of the previous year.

"The main indicators of where the economy is going are pretty positive, especially capital spending, which was much stronger than pretty much anyone expected," said Christopher Walker, an economist at Credit Suisse First Boston.

For January-March private capital investment rose 1.9 percent, down from the 3.0 percent gain over October-December.

"Capital expenditure remains relatively firm on the back of rising corporate profits last year," said Masaaki Kanno, chief economist at JP Morgan.

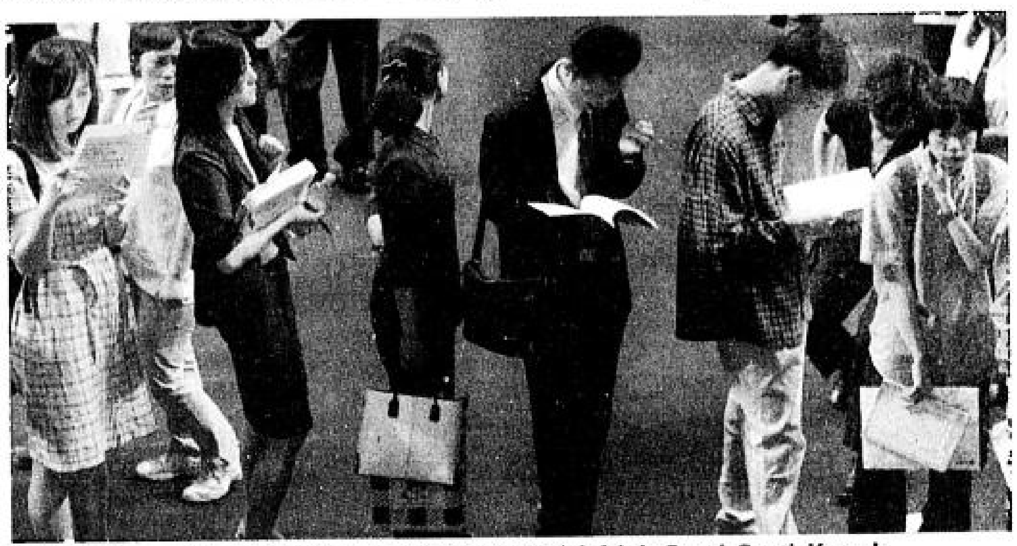
Companies such as leading automaker Toyota enjoyed record profits in the year to March just ended, while others like technology giant Toshiba swung back into the black.

Private consumption, which accounts for almost 60 percent of GDP, also held up well—rising 0.3 percent during the first quarter compared with zero growth over the previous three months — despite falling wages and high unemployment.

People are dipping into their savings, said Kanno. "So in that sense consumer sentiment remains relatively firm."

But exports, which comprise 11 percent of Japan's GDP, skidded 0.5 percent in January-March, the first fall in five quarters and reversing a 4.5 percent rise in the previous three months.

"The main drag was exports, reflecting a contraction in auto exports to the United States," Kanno commented. *AFP*



SOUTH Korean job applicants queue for forms at a job fair in Seoul. South Korea's unemployment rate adjusted for seasonal factors edged higher in April, as a slowing economy prompted firms to turn more cautious about hiring, the government said on Friday. REUTERS

WTO pact key to growth, CEOs say

WASHINGTON—US business leaders, worried that foreign policy and trade disputes are threatening the best chance for world economic growth, are stepping up efforts to ensure a new world trade pact is concluded by January 2005, a top industry official said on Thursday.

John Castellani, president of the Business Roundtable, told Reuters the influential group of top US corporate executives was working with their counterparts in Europe, Asia and Latin America to increase pressure on governments to finish the Doha Development Agenda negotiations on time.

The aggressive campaign reflects worries that bad feelings caused by the war in Iraq and several high-profile trade disputes have polluted the atmosphere for achieving a new multilateral pact to tear down barriers to trade, he said.

With major industrialized economies growing at snail's pace, the World Trade Organization talks are the best hope of spurring growth in both rich and poor countries, Castellani said.

Without a new trade pact, "everybody is very much concerned that we're not going to have the kind of domestic vibrancy—whether it's the United States, Germany, Brazil or Japan—to create jobs and sustained investment," he added.

Castellani said world business leaders would be pushing for progress on the trade front at the Group of Eight meeting in France between President George W. Bush and leaders of other major industrialized nations in early June.

A meeting of top trade ministers in Egypt June 20-21 and a summit between Bush and European Union leaders in Washington just a few days later are two other important opportunities for countries to make progress in WTO talks, he said. *Reuters*

Bankruptcies in HK down 13.1% in April

HONG KONG—The number of bankruptcies in Hong Kong dropped in April, but economists said the fall is likely to be temporary as the economy remains badly shaken by the outbreak of the deadly SARS virus.

The number of people declared bankrupt fell 13.1 percent in April to 2,710 compared to the previous month, the government's Official Receiver's Office said on Friday, partially reversing an 18-percent jump the previous month.

Lam said the number of new bankruptcy filings might have dropped as people cut down on all activities involving going to public places such as government buildings.

"I wouldn't give too much importance to this figure. We expect unemployment to rise, and this would negate any positive move in the bankruptcy numbers in April," said Prakash Sakpal, economist at ING Financial Markets.

Hong Kong's unemployment rate is expected to rise to 7.8 percent for the three months to end-April from 7.5 percent for the period to end-March, according to a Reuters poll of economists, matching the record set last summer.

The territory's tourism, hotel and restaurant industries have been the worst-hit sectors of the economy, resulting in the losses of thousands of jobs and the closure of several outlets. *Reuters*

Online sales up 48% in '02, survey says

WASHINGTON—US online retail sales jumped 48 percent in 2002 to $76 billion despite a sluggish overall economy, according to an industry survey released Thursday.

The study conducted by Forrester Research for Shop.org, the online division of the National Retail Federation, also showed 70 percent of online retailers posted a profit last year, up from 56 percent in 2001.

Collectively, retailers broke even in online sales last year, up from a loss of 6 percent in 2001, according to the report.

The study projects online retail sales will grow 26 percent in 2003, to $96 billion, with seven product categories poised for more than 40 percent growth in 2003.

"In a time when the retail industry has been extremely challenged, it is encouraging to see the online channel continue to grow—and, even better, start to make money," Forrester researcher Kate Delhagen said. Certain areas are showing strong growth in online sales, the report said, noting that 32 percent of computer hardware and software was sold online last year.

Other areas of double-digit growth were tickets for events (17 percent) and books (12 percent).

Online sales are expected to reach 4.5 percent of total retail sales in 2003, up from 3.6 percent in 2002. *AFP*

Major US retailers turning to discounts

CHICAGO—Major US retailers from Abercrombie & Fitch Co. to Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are poised to slash prices this quarter to clear out excess inventory, but while bargain-hunters rejoice, investors could face declining profits and lower share prices.

Already grappling with price deflation that makes it harder to boost year-over-year sales, retailers are now stuck with heavy stockpiles of everything from clothing to lawn furniture after a lackluster spring selling season.

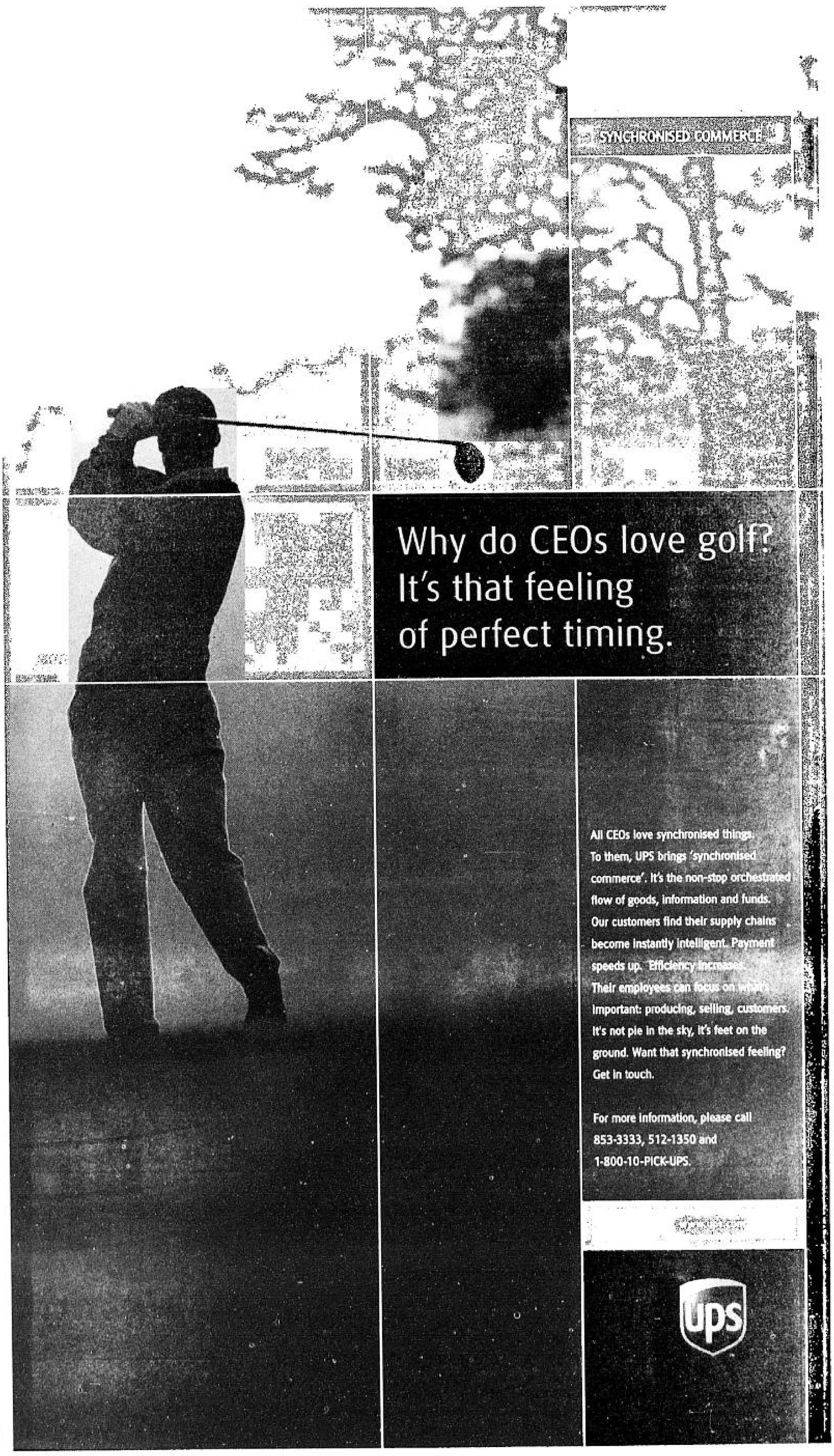
War in Iraq, unseasonably cool weather, and weak consumer sentiment combined to push retail sales below expectations in recent months. Adding to the pain, Thursday's jobless report showed unemployment at a level not seen since the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

In another worrying sign the economy may not be recovering as swiftly as retailers would like, a report issued on Thursday showed US wholesale prices took a record plunge last month.

The second quarter "will be great for consumers finding bargains but less robust for retailers themselves," said Todd Slater, retail analyst with Lazard Freres & Co.

That could mean trouble for retail stocks because share prices have been on the rise even though analysts have been lowering earnings estimates.

Analysts currently expect the retail sector as a whole to show a 7.3 percent year-over-year earnings increase in the second quarter, according to research firm Thomson First Call. *Reuters*



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Banks see more investments in Asia

WASHINGTON—Investment in emerging financial markets will pick up modestly this year, with nearly half of the money going to Asia, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) predicted Thursday.

Net private capital flows to emerging markets were likely to rise to $139 billion this year from $110 billion last year as investors regain some confidence, said a report by the IIF, a global association of 320 institutions.

Emerging markets range from Argentina, still recovering from a massive financial crisis, to Brazil, Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa and Turkey.

About half of the total investment, or $68 billion, would head for Asia this year, only slightly above last year's level, said IIF chief economist Yusuke Horiguchi.

"Overall, Asia's net capital inflows, which showed particular resilience to market volatility last year, are likely to be more restrained than previously anticipated due to the emergence of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)," Horiguchi said.

"While the spread of the disease has begun to be contained in some countries, the ultimate duration and full economic impact of the virus is still undetermined," he warned.

Overall, this year's projection for net capital flows to emerging markets remained well below the annual average of 186 billion dollars over the past decade, said IIF managing director Charles Dallara. *AFP*

Dollar ticks lower as market awaits G7 meeting for clues

TOKYO—The dollar edged down on Friday but kept off its two-year low versus the yen as traders awaited possible comments on foreign exchange rates from the Group of Seven (G7) meeting that kicks off later in the day in France.

"In the short-term, the market is lacking direction," said a spot trader at a major Japanese bank.

"If anything interesting comes out of the US side at the G7, it could provide some fuel for movement."

Many traders are looking for any remarks on the currency market, especially from US officials, after US Treasury Secretary John Snow's recent comments criticizing the use of intervention to fine-tune economic growth.

His stance led to the perception that Washington might be at odds with Japan, which many traders believe has been repeatedly conducting dollar-buying, yen-selling intervention to help exports.

Dealers believe the Bank of Japan, acting on behalf of the Finance Ministry, stepped into the market on Thursday after the dollar fell to 115.30 yen, its lowest since February 2001.

The euro edged up to $1.1392 against $1.1375.

The single currency also eked out small gains to 132.52 yen , up from 132.45 yen and its one-week low of 132.30 set on Thursday.

Dollar selling was limited in Asia as traders focused on how the United States and Japan would paper over the apparent gap in foreign exchange views at the meeting of G7 finance ministers this weekend, or in a bilateral meeting on the sidelines.

"I don't think the two ministers will fight till they're red in the face," said Tomomasa Noguchi, forex manager at Mitsubishi Corp. "Perhaps they will try not to attack each other, which will benefit the dollar," he added.

Another key factor for the market is the April US consumer price index (CPI).

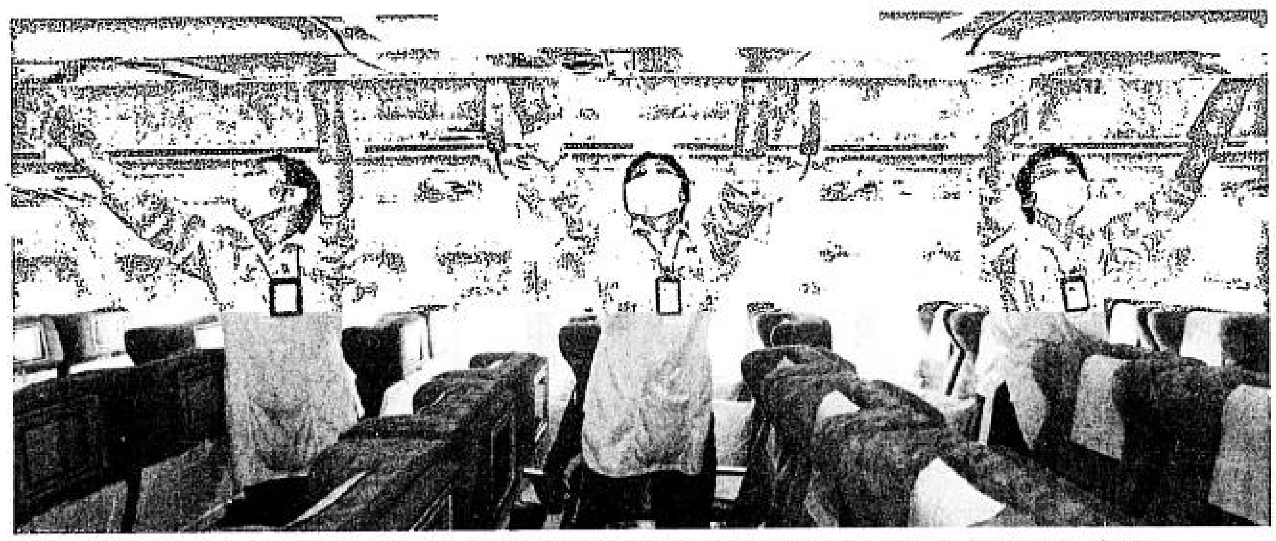
The Fed last week warned of the potential for deflation in the US economy.

The market has been selling the dollar recently partly on fears that the Fed could again ease interest rates if prices fall further.

Overall April CPI is expected to slip 0.1 percent compared with a rise of 0.3 percent in March.

Earlier on Friday, Japan said its economy stayed flat in the first quarter of this year. The figure was in line with market expectations and had little impact on currencies. *Reuters*

S. Korean jobless rate up as economy slows



CATHAY Pacific Airways staff wearing masks to protect themselves from catching the flu-like Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), clean a plane in Hong Kong. The outbreak of SARS has led to a sharp drop in passenger traffic for Cathay Pacific Airways, the fourth largest Airline in Asia. REUTERS

SEOUL—South Korea's unemployment rate edged higher in April as a slowing economy prompted firms to be more cautious about hiring, the government said on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose to 3.2 percent in April—the highest since August—against 3.1 percent in March and in April last year.

The unadjusted rate fell to 3.3 percent in April from 3.6 percent in March due to rising employment in the construction and agricultural sectors, the National Statistical Office said.

"Seasonally, the job market should have been busier in April," said Chang Kyeng-se, director of NSO's social statistics division. "But employment was not as active as before because of worries about a slowing economy." The central bank recently cut its growth forecast for the economy this year to 4.1 percent from a previous target of 5.7 percent. The economy grew an estimated 6.3 percent last year.

The number of people without work fell to 756,000 in April, against 807,000 in March but above 734,000 a year earlier.

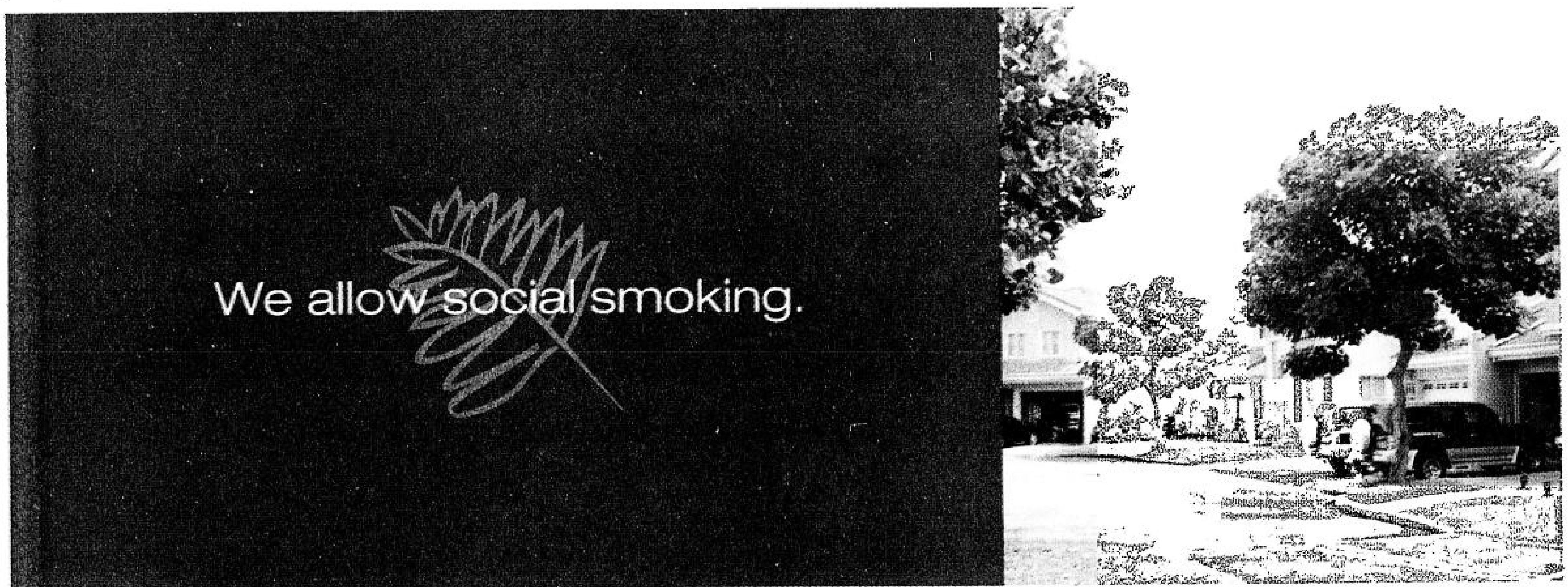
The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index was pulled down by the data, shedding over one percent by noon.

The unemployment rate among people in their 20s stayed high at 7.2 percent, up from 6.4 percent a year earlier, the NSO said.

Many Korean companies have been scaling back on new employment or freezing it at last year's level.

"Our new employment this year will not exceed last year's 4,000, which is just to fill the gap left by those retiring and leaving companies," said Choi Seung-jin, a spokesman at Samsung Group, the country's largest and most profitable conglomerate.

Samsung group includes Samsung Electronics Co, the world's largest memory chip maker, among its affiliates. *Reuters*



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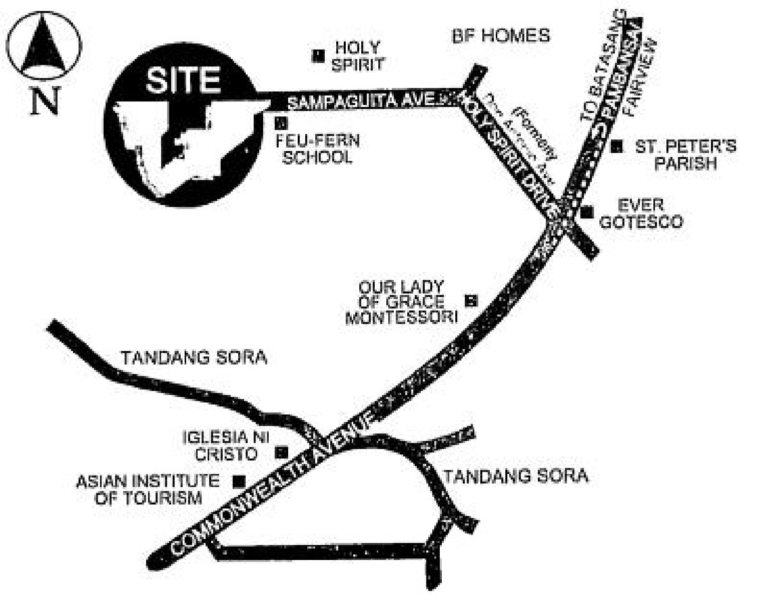

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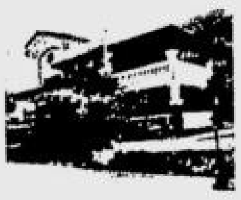

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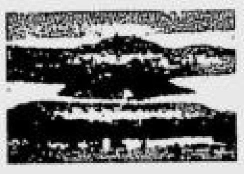

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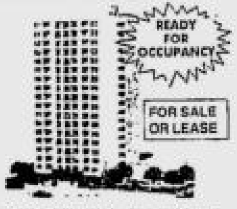

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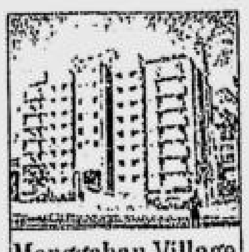

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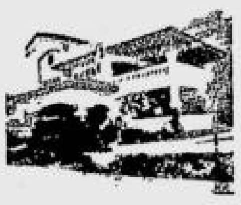

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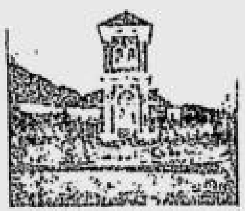

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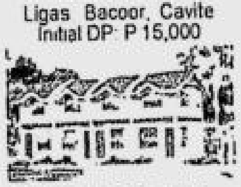

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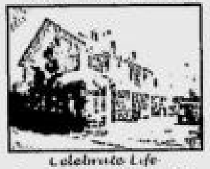

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTHRIDGE TAGAYTAY
386m² near clubhse
main road 9522109

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

LOT

OTHER AREAS

TAGAYTAY Canyon Woods 3lots (250m² each) 9123760

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 loc. 27

LAGUNA

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m Vic 8903461 loc 2

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ANNOUNCES THE VACANCY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT HEAD

- will be responsible for the planning and development of organizational structure of the Coop, recommendation of personnel management policies, methods and procedures on recruitment, selection, training & development and retirement of personnel
- must be graduate of AB Psychology or other Behavioral Sciences with at least 3 years experience in related field
- computer literate, with ability to speak and write effectively in English
- not more than 35 years old

Applicants are requested to apply in person together with their Biodata with picture, application and recommendation letters, transcript of records, certificates of previous employment & clearances (barangay, police, NBI & drug test) at:

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
CAGELCO II Main Office
Macanaya District, Aparri, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 8228506

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Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines
Telephone No. 925-2401 to 50

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC0 is inviting bidders for 6 months contract for:

DESCRIPTION	Bidding Fee
Medical/Laboratory Supplies	P1,000.00 /co.
Pharmaceutical Supplies (medicines)	1,500.00 /principal
Foodstuffs Supplies	500.00 /co.

Source of Funding PHC FUNDS

The lists of registration requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on May 30, 2003 not later than 5:00 p.m. For inquiry, please call Purchasing Division at 922-0574 ask for Noemi.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to PHC. The PHC neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the PHC guarantee an award will be made.

(Sgd.) RAUL D. JARA, M.D.
Chairman BAC

(PDI - May 10 11, 17 & 18, 2003)

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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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DOG TRAINER 4528681

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PROMO GIRLS FOR SM CALL 4191828 4192389

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BEAUTICIAN/MANICURISTS 563 P. FAURA ERMITA 5240526

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC.
#233 Buendia Shopping Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat A[illegible] Makati City #602 JP Ri[illegible] St. Makati City #15 Gen Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Piñas will hold an Auction Sale on May 24, 2003 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to December 2002.
V. Zamora [illegible]

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Memorial Lots of Herminia B. Pantilio at Mla Mem. Park Cem. EFGH-Emerald Acres, under contract No. 1208 said deed of transfer to Angelita P. [illegible] tigue has been judicially settled May 15, 2003 under Doc 443, Book 90, Page 9, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Generoso O. Legazpi Jr. of Makati City.
(PDI- May 17 24 & 31 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Lost Stock Certificates
in the name of:
Jesus R. Gonzaga, Jr.
1.FMF DEVELOPMENT CORP.
No. 11469-216 shares
2.BASIC CONSOLIDATED
No. 134493-645 shares
No.168056-602 shares

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Internet Card. Blast39 [illegible]

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1596 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER
For a Foreign-Assisted Program-Mindanao

A U.S. consulting engineering company contracted by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program is seeking expressions of interest from individuals applying for the above position.

This is a senior level position for a fixed-term engagement beginning on or about June 15, 2003 through August 14, 2007 with Davao City as the official duty station.

The work entails managing the administrative and other support units of the GEM Project Management Office including but not limited to the accounting, office admin, motor pool, and network system administration. The Administrative Manager shall:

- Provide guidance to the Chief Accountant in the areas of project accounting, budgeting, financial monitoring, maintenance of financial records, and compliance with USAID financial reporting requirements;
- Provide guidance to the system network administrator in the management and efficient utilization of the program IT resources;
- Oversee the operations of the motor pool unit;
- Supervise the work of the office management unit with respect to office maintenance and housekeeping, security, and office supply inventory, and utilization;
- Oversee the procurement of office supplies, commodities and equipment;
- Review and recommend changes, if necessary, to company policies and procedures concerning personnel administration, employee compensation and fringe benefits structuring; and,
- Approve travel requests, cash advances, leave requests and performs other administrative related duties as Administrator

A law or accounting degree is preferred but is not necessarily a requirement. Experience in implementation of foreign-funded development programs is desirable. Non-resident individuals will have to relocate to Davao City. Compensation will be based on salary history, equivalent market rates with standard fringe benefit packages.

Interested individuals are requested to submit original copies of their letter of interest, statement of experience and qualifications, and salary history within 5 working days of publication of this ad to the following address:

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Unit 3, 12/F, ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat corner Don Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City, 1200. Tel. No: (02) 812-1647.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, 0401 MM
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines
Tel. 632-4306/4301; Fax No. (632) 636-2577

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Procurement of Duplexing Digital Copiers Under RP No. 03-1224

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) now invites sealed Bids from Bidders for the supply, delivery and installation of duplexing digital copiers as defined in the Technical Specifications [illegible] Instructions to Bidders of the Bidding Document (hereinafter referred to as the "Goods").

Local competitive bidding exercise will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single Stage: Single-Envelope procedure, and is open to all interested Bidders.

3. Bidders may obtain further information about the bid requirements from the Bidding Document to be issued by the ADB through Head, Procurement Section, Office of Administrative Services, Room S1636, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City 0401 Metro Manila, Philippines. Fax Nos (63-2) 636-2577/(63-2) 631-6899, Tel Nos (63-2) 632-4306/4301, and [illegible] chsum@adb.org or nmanalo@adb.org or csoriano@adb.org

A set of Bidding Document, in the English language, is available at the above address starting on 19 May 2003 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), Monday to Friday, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00) at the ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.

5. The Goods are grouped into two lots, namely (a) 8 units duplexing digital copier, high volume, automatic and (b) 10 units duplexing digital copier, high volume, high speed, automatic. Bidders [illegible] submit a proposal on one or any combination of the two lots. The ADB will evaluate and compare the bids on the basis of a lot, or a combination of the two lots in a manner most [illegible]cal and advantageous to ADB.

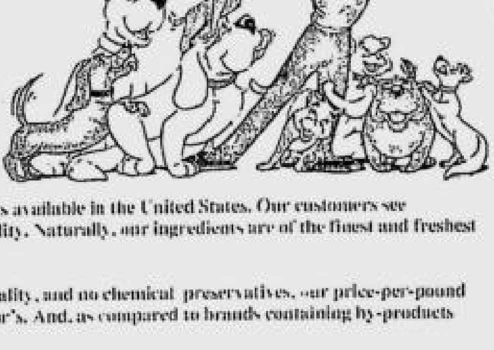
[illegible] must be delivered to the above address by 2:00 p.m. on **18 June 2003**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of not less than 2% of the total bid price. Late Bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at OAS Conference Room, Room 4522N, 2:05 p.m., **18 June 2003**.

7. The ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

Asad Shah
Director General
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI- [illegible] 7, 2003)

The Pet Pantry



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MARCELINO V. REYES

of 21 Mercury St., Meteor Homes,
Marikina Heights

Peacefully joined our Lord
on May 16, 2003 at the age of 78.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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Telefax 651-0756
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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
APOLONIO N. MENDOZA	MAY 17	10:00 A.M.	Holy Gardens Greenhills Memorial Park Calamba City	Talisay, Batangas

www.holygardens.com
E-mail address: sales@holygardens.com

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Atty. Napoleon Castillo Castillo

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 16, 2003
Formerly with Bureau of Immigration and Deportation

His wife **Lourdes M. Hernandez (†)**; children, **Daisy, Lory** and **Dennis Cerdeña, Joy (†)**; grandchildren, **Chinit** and **Christine Cerdeña**; sister, **Ester C. Carandang**; sisters-in-law, **Consolacion H. Songcuya, Nellie M. Hernandez, Juling B. Castillo**; brother-in-law, **Cirilo A. Songcuya**, request everyone to rejoice with them at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus De Liguori Church, Chapel 1, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at Sto. Thomas Catholic Cemetery, Sto. Tomas, Batangas on May 20, 2003, Tuesday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Chapel 1 of the St. Alphonsus De Liguori Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life". *John 3:16*

Dr. DANILO "Danny" JANDA MABOLO

of Boac, Marinduque and Pilar Villa., Las Piñas City

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord
on May 15, 2003 at the age of 44.

His loving mother **Guadalupe J. Mabolo**; his sisters **Erlie, Florie, Tessie**; his brothers **Renato & Noel**; in-laws **Hector, Kim, Chuchi, Chona**; nieces **Len-Len, Tracy, Mikee, Arianne & Dorothy Ann**; nephews **Kiko, Gilbert, Eric, Carlo, PJ, Paolo**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Del Pilar Chapel, La Funeraria Paz - Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 20, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park - Sucat after the 3:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

"Happy are those who have
died in the Lord; Let them
rest from their labors for
their good deeds go with them."
Revelations 14:13

In Sacred Memory
of

Judge Juan Bombase Llaguno

His wife Judge **Novelita Villegas Llaguno**
And beloved parent to **Johnny Boy & Daisy Belen, Awel & Dada Briones, Caloy & Malou Blas**

Ask you to pray for him, that he may share eternal joy in heaven.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 18, 2003 at Santuario de los Almas Memorial Garden at Tigaon, Camarines Sur after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
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CLASSIFIEDS

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: March 28, 2003
LOAN NO.: MIYAZAWA
CONTRACT NO.: SP02.CMIP.Vw-0358

1. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds for Cebu-Mactan Interconnection Project* and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) GIS Substation including Protection & Communication Systems and Underground Power & fiber Optic Cables.*
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)* invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Schedule I - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138/69 kV GIS & Conventional Outdoor Substation Equipment including Protection & Communication Systems for Mandaue S/S, Mactan S/S & Banilad S/S Expansion

   Schedule II - Design, Furnishing, Installing, Testing and Commissioning (Turn-key Basis) 138 kV Underground XLPE Power Cables & Fiber Optic Cables
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, 2nd Floor, Building 2, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City (Zip Code 1104), Philippines, Tel./Fax Number: 921-2308.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting March 28, 2003 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *fifty-five thousand pesos (Php 55,000.00).*
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals are opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive are rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   Schedule I - Three Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty US dollars (US$374,320)

   Schedule II - Two Hundred Sixty Thousand and Forty US dollars (US$260,040)

   The bid security must be included with the technical proposal.

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on July 15, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for each schedule is 540 calendar days.
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN**
Chairman
Bids Award Committee

(PDI - May 3, 7 & 17, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CENTRAL OFFICE
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bldg #3 SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE STA CRUZ
MANILA PHILIPPINES
TEL NO (632) 743-83-01
LOCAL 1330
e-mail address www.doh.gov.ph

INVITATION FOR RE-BID
DISTRIBUTION/FORWARDING SERVICES

IFB NO. 2003-6-18 (13)

The Department of Health hereby re-invites sealed bids from interested Bidders to provide ***Distribution/Forwarding Services*** to the DOH Central Office and Centers for Health Development (CHD) for the year 2003. The estimated budget for this procurement is ***Fifty Million (PhP50,000,000.00) Philippine Pesos.***

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon submission of License to Operate/Business Permit as a Forwarder and upon payment of ***non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (PhP2,000.00) Philippine Pesos*** only from the Procurement and Logistics Service from 26 May to 13 June 2003, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A ***pre-bidding conference*** will be held on 4 June 2003 at ***9:30 a.m., HHRDB Conference Room***, 3rd Floor, Bldg. #12-A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the ***HHRDB Conference Room***, 3rd Floor, Bldg. #12-A, not later than ***9:30 a.m.*** on 18 June 2003. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an amount of ***Five Hundred Thousand (PhP500,000.00) Philippine Pesos***, in the form of certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank.

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health & COBAC Chairperson

(PDI--May 17 & 24, 2003)

CAGAYAN II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Aparri, Cagayan

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Cagayan II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CAGELCO) is inviting all interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the following materials and equipment:

Concrete Poles, Wires, and Transformers and line Materials

To be qualified, bidder must have fully complied with the following:

1) Accreditation requirements: (for submission to PBAC Chairman, Mrs. Blandina Y Madamba)
   - a. Company profile
   - b. Business registration
   - c. Business Permit
   - d. BIR/VAT Certificat
   - e. Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
   - f. List of Clients for a period of 3 years, if applicable
2) Must be able to pay P2,000.00 (for this particular bidding only and not refundable) for the bid documents during the pre-bidding conference.

CAGELCO II reserves the right to reject any/or all bids without any reason, waive any formality therein, accept proposal most advantageous to cooperative and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or, losses that may be incurred in preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Pre-bid conference and bidding schedules shall be informed to all qualified bidders through fax and mails.

Deadline of submission of requirements - May 24, 2003.

(Sgd.) **GABRIEL A. TORDESSILAS**
General Manager

Note: For the extension of laterals lines for the following areas:
Sitio Batal, Barangay Alinunu, Sitio Macugay, Guiddem; Barangay Cunig Gattaran Barangay Daqueray West of Sanchez Mira, all of Cagayan

Source of fund:
1. 2002 National Electrification Administration (NEA) Subsidy
2. PDAF of APEC Representative, Hon. Ernesto Pablo

(PDI - May 10 & 17, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

SECOND TENDER

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase/Lease* by way of sealed bids the following properties on *"As Is - Where Is"* basis:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
001	11,570 sqm. Industrial lot with improvements (shipping/port related facilities)	Macabalan-Puntod Cagayan de Oro City	SALE: PhP8,192/sqm. or PhP94,1440.00 LEASE: PhP32.76/sqm./mo. or PhP379,033.20/mo.
002	Foreclosed 200 sqm. lot with unfinished structure	Barangay Patag Cagayan de Oro City	PhP465,000.00
03-09	7 industrial lots 9,658 to 10,811 sqm. With TCTs	San Jose Del Monte Bulacan	PhP800.00/sqm.

Payment schemes for the abovecited properties are ***cash, modified cash*** (6 equal installments without interest) and ***installment*** for a maximum period of ***ten (10) years*** with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of ***PhP200.00*** from the ***Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Quezon City and the Cagayan de Oro Project Office located at Don Julio Pacana Street, Macabalan Puntod, Cagayan de Oro. For inquiry, please call ***Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos, Manager, Sales Div., CIED*** or ***Ms. Neri A. Subido*** at the following Tel. Nos. ***CIED: (02) 923-0390, (02) 928-4561 local 302 & 303.***

SCHEDULE	Cagayan de Oro	Sapang Palay
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification	May 19 to May 27, '03 office hours NHA-Project Office Compound	May 19 to 04 June, '03 Office Hours CIED, Mezzanine Floor NHA Main Bldg. Elliptical Road, Q.C.
B. Pre-Bid conference	27 May '03, 2:30 p.m. NHA-CDO P.O. Compound	04 June '03, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg.
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	29 May '03, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. NHA-CDO P.O. Compound	06 June '03, 9:00 a.m. to 12 n.n. Operations Center
D Opening of Sealed Bids	29 May '03, 10:30 a.m. NHA-CDO P.O. Compound	06 June '03, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center

The Authority reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to *waive* any required formalities and *accept* offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager /Chairman COINBAC

(PDI - May 17, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AIR FORCE BATTLE DRESS ATTIRE, CAMOUFLAGE BLUE SUIT WITH BERET** for the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

The approved budget for this contract is **P17,000,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on **May 29, 2003 9:30 A.M., Thursday, at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **May 19, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be **on June 17, 2003 at 9:30 A.M., Tuesday.**

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, **IABAC**

(PDI – May 17 & 24, 2003)

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Getting rid of stigma is key to winning battle vs AIDS

By Charles E. Buban

SOMETIMES it takes one big announcement from a very popular figure to make everybody sit up, listen and act on an issue that most people would rather ignore or would not discuss openly.

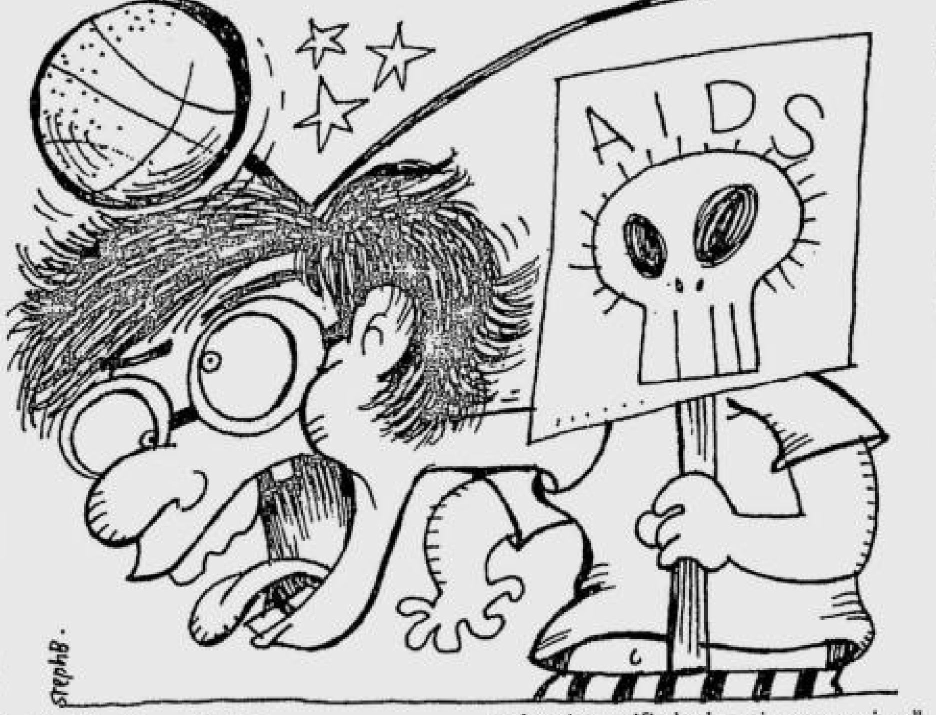
In November 1991, one of the National Basketball Association's most beloved superstars appeared before a televised press conference, and announced his retirement from the (Los Angeles) Lakers "because of the HIV virus I have obtained."

Even as the world reeled from his shocking pronouncement, Earvin "Magic" Johnson dealt with the problem directly. He smiled and promised to battle the disease and to "become a spokesman" for it.

At that instance, barriers to promote AIDS education broke down, and formerly apathetic sectors started to show interest in the problem.

"Just like the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome crisis we are dealing with at the moment, AIDS can only be addressed if the public is properly educated about it," said Wyda Deocareza Berina, coordinator of the Department of Health's Women Cancer Program and who is part of a group assigned by the DOH to educate the public on various health concerns.

Berina said people panic about a disease if they do not understand its nature, and this is true in the case of SARS and AIDS.



Eliminating stigma

"Stigma is the most significant problem confronting people infected with AIDS, and it is also one of the most important reasons a lot of people would rather not discuss this public health problem," Berina said.

Stigma afflicts the infected person and the affected person; both suffer from a problem of self-esteem. It bars success in prevention, care, treatment, harm reduction, risk reduction and public education about health.

What's needed to fight the stigma?

"Better infrastructure, more funding and an intensified education campaign," suggested Berina.

The DOH believes the nationwide information dissemination campaign should continue until such time that even those living in far-flung areas will be educated about it.

"If people knew the risks, AIDS can be prevented," said Berina.

Knowing more about AIDS

AIDS, short for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is caused by a virus called human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which attacks the immune system, the body's line of defense against diseases and infections.

HIV is spread through sexual contact with an infected person, through needle-sharing among injecting drug users or through transfusions of infected blood or blood-clotting factors.

HIV-infected pregnant women can transmit the virus to their newborns before or during birth, or, possibly, through breastfeeding.

One cannot get infected from mosquito bites. But AIDS-infected blood can get into a person's bloodstream through an open cut or if the blood splashes into the eyes or inside the nose, although infection through this route is rare.

There is no cure yet for HIV. However, there exists a drug cocktail that has helped thousands of HIV-positive people in the United States and Europe. But with an annual price tag of $15,000 and above, such regimen is out of reach for most Africans and Asians.

10 years to develop

How long after infection with HIV does it take for AIDS to develop?

According to experts, about half of people with HIV develop AIDS within 10 years, but the time between infection and onset of AIDS can vary greatly.

The severity of the HIV-related illness or illnesses differs from person to person and is dependent on many factors, including overall health status, they added.

As of 2001, an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS worldwide. The disease has killed 22 million.

More funding required for HIV/AIDS prevention

WASHINGTON—Only one in five of those most in danger of AIDS infection know anything about how to protect themselves because less than half of what is needed is being spent on prevention, a report issued last Tuesday said.

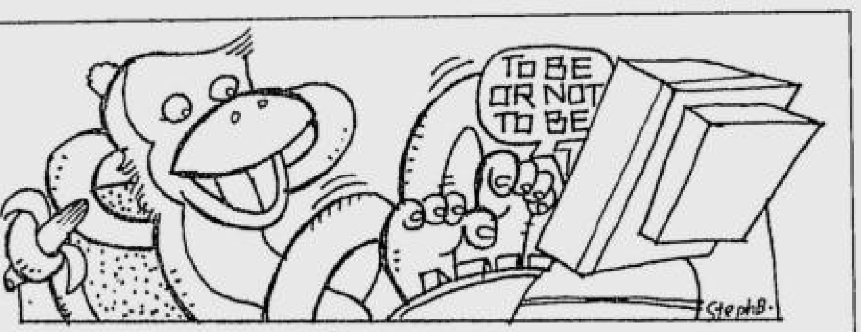
"Twenty years into the AIDS epidemic, most people in the world still don't have access to effective HIV prevention," said Dr. Helene Gayle, director of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's global HIV/AIDS program and co-chair of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group, which issued the report.

The report said just 5 percent of pregnant women at high risk have access to drugs that could protect their babies from the virus, only 12 percent of high-risk people have access to counseling and testing, and 42 percent can get condoms.

The United Nations AIDS agency, UNAIDS, estimates that $1.9 billion was spent in 2002 to prevent AIDS, on programs such as education, condom distribution, and providing drugs. But it says $5.7 billion will be needed annually by 2005 and $6.6 billion by 2007.

The one in five estimate was reached by looking at each group at risk around the world—pregnant women, drug users, sex workers and so on.

Spending on prevention now will prevent millions of infections, Gayle said. Gayle said failing to invest in prevention would likely mean an "an explosion of HIV" in India, China and other countries where AIDS is emerging. *Reuters*



Scientific measures

THIS week, the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced it now has a standard by which all peanut butter, and consequently various other foods with similar fat/protein rations, shall henceforth be measured.

In the vast confines of the building where a special chamber holds a foot-long lead bar, which is the official measurement of a foot, is a shelf. And on that shelf are three jars of expensive, never-to-be-eaten peanut butter. Sophisticated technology has been employed in measuring every ingredient in these jars.

Peanut butter is rich in proteins, fats and minerals, which makes it ideal as a standard for a corner of the food triangle, whose sides are made up of fats, proteins and carbohydrates. The closer a food item is to a corner of the triangle, the higher its content of that nutrient.

For example, while the amount of aflatoxins (carcinogenic substances from molds that form on crops like nuts) is regulated in the food industry, there was no way of measuring just how much aflatoxins were in a product. Now, researchers have measured the aflatoxin content in peanut butter and can use it as basis for comparison/calculation.

Lily's to lose rights

Speaking of peanut butter, sometime this month, Lily's loses exclusive rights to the technology that allows it to incorporate Vitamin A into peanut butter to make the fight against blindness more affordable in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

If you didn't already know, every jar of Lily's peanut butter produced in the past year has been enriched with Vitamin A, the result of three years of research by Dr. Anna Resurreccion and her colleagues at the University of Georgia and the UP Food Development Center. Resurreccion et al. picked peanut butter because it's a popular food item and it's affordable.

Peanut butter isn't the first vitamin-enriched product to hit the market.

Golden rice, also enriched with Vitamin A, has been in the market for a few years now although studies have shown that 100 gm of rice contain about 5 to 8 percent of the US recommended daily allowance (RDA). What this means is that a person needs to eat about a kilo of golden rice each day to benefit from the added nutrient.

With that in mind, I've asked Dr. Resurreccion just how much vitamin-enriched peanut butter one has to eat to get the US RDA. Her answer next week.

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

Typing monkeys

In other news, biologist Julian Huxley (grandson of Darwinian advocate Thomas Huxley and brother of Aldous Huxley who wrote Brave New World) was anonymously quoted several times this week, nearly 30 years after his death.

Huxley had said that an infinite number of monkeys working with an infinite number of typewriters would, over an infinite amount of time, eventually produce the complete works of Shakespeare.

Researchers from the Plymouth University MediaLab in England decided to test this out, giving six macaque monkeys a computer for a month. (Mac aficionados have said that the monkeys wouldn't have been so destructive had they been given the cool-looking Mac with the swiveling melon head.)

After bashing the computer with a rock and using it as a toilet, the monkeys eventually figured out that pressing a key made symbols appear on the monitor. They were apparently big fans of the letter S, although the letters A, J, L and M showed up toward the end of their six pages of work.

Anyone who wants to marvel at the keyboard-savvy simians may purchase a copy of their literary efforts for £25 (around P2,100). Maybe the medialab needed money to pay back the Arts grant they used for this research.

So why wasn't the university's science department involved in the first place?

Trekkie language

Finally, Star Trek fans lost their chance to get Klingon recognized as a real language when authorities from the mental health services in Multnomah County, Oregon, decided they didn't really need a Klingon/English interpreter.

When the job opening was first announced just over a week ago, officials cited the need to understand mental health patients who spoke only Klingon. Now, they're saying they've never had any walk-in patients to require such an interpreter, which, of course, will lead some people to try to prove them wrong.

On the other hand, they do have interpreters for 54 other languages, so maybe the would-be Klingons will find another way to communicate.

Kudos!

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TWO mathematicians, a literary artist, a neurologist, a pharmacist, a food engineer, a social scientist, a climatologist, an agriculturist, a parasitologist and a chemist comprise this year's National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) awardees. The 2,000-member NRCP recognized that the lifetime achievements of the following scientists did not only further their respective fields, but also aided our country in various ways. (The information below is culled from NRCP's Jowi A. Carteciano.)

Dr. Rosalinda C. Solevilla was awarded in the field of pharmaceutical sciences. Her research established the antimicrobial activities, diuretic, analgesic, antipyretic and antiinflammatory properties of some Philippine medicinal plants. Her research contributed significantly to the promotion of the use of medicinal plants as alternative medicine, to the production of low-cost medicines, and to the government's program to improve the country's health care and lifestyle.

Dr. Teresita P. Acevedo was awarded in the field of engineering and industrial research. Her research helped and influenced the country's lawmakers in formulating food development policies and standards. Her studies are now used as bases in the design and creation of globally competitive food processing technologies that help the country's food manufacturing sector produce world-class quality food products.

Alleviating poverty

Dr. Ma. Cynthia-Rose B. Bautista was awarded in the field of social sciences. Her scientific investigations on the impacts of urbanization, labor migration and the Asian economic crisis upon the country's diverse culture, lives and rights of Filipino women, poverty alleviation, and people empowerment were transformed into books. These gained international recognition and significantly contributed to the enhancement of teaching and research in the social sciences in the Philippines.

Dr. Leoncio A. Amadore was awarded in the field of earth sciences. His works resulted in an empirical method of forecasting tropical cyclone movement, which had been internationally recognized as the Amadore Method. His technical and scientific articles enriched with scientific information from his researches on storm surges, tropical cyclone, disaster management cycle, and typhoon climatology, structures and development were published in local and international scientific journals. They significantly contributed to the advancement of atmospheric science and hydrometeorology in the country.

Dr. Ma. Lilia F. Realubit was awarded in the field of humanities. She is a prolific literary artist and critic cited for her research on the intricacies of diverse Philippine culture. Her lectures in many local and foreign literary conferences, seminar-workshops and symposiums promoted better understanding and appreciation of the country's folklore, spoken languages and literature. She collected, documented, translated and published literature in the Bicol region that inspired many Bicolanos to safeguard the uniqueness of their culture. Her efforts also contributed to the continuing development of Bicol culture as an integral part of Philippine cultural heritage.

Medicine

Dr. Lilian Lee was awarded in the field of medical sciences. A neurologist, she discovered the causes of a brain disorder known as Recessive Dystonia Parkinsonism prevalent in the islands of Panay. Her discovery is instrumental to the understanding and classification of RDP. Medical scientists, technologists and researchers from international scientific communities recognized this discovery and its importance to other medical researches.

Dr. Roberto E. Coronel was awarded in the field of agriculture and forestry. He contributed immensely to the government's efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the well-being of Filipinos in the agricultural sector in remote regions. His research on fruits and nuts, especially asexual propagation methods, paved the way for Filipino farmers to produce crops and fruits in large scale all-year round and improved the country's fruit industry.

Dr. Priscilla C. Sanchez was awarded in the field of biological sciences. She pioneered scientific research and investigation on Philippine microbial diversity, isolating and characterizing different species of bacteria and fungi according to habitats and potential biotechnology applications. She also discovered two species of bacteria—the *Caldivirga maquilinensis* and *Caldisphaera lagunensis*—that inhabit the mud springs in Mt. Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna. Her research on microbial contents of fermented food products play a vital role in the generation of novel technologies that are now used in the production of healthy fermented food products, that is, free from disease-causing parasites.

Dr. Marco Nemesio E. Montano was awarded in the field of chemical sciences. He characterized the algal polysaccharide contents of some species of Philippine seaweed. His research helped the government in informing and educating many Filipinos, especially those living in coastal areas, on the food uses and processing of sea vegetables His work contributed to the development and progress of the country's seaweed industry.

Mathematicians

I am especially proud of the two mathematicians included in this stellar roster Dr. Jose Marasigan I consider as one o my mentors, who not only was my professor, but is an esteemed colleague and friend. Our most recent collaboration was aiding Fr. Ben Nebres, Ateneo president, in launching of 1st Ateneo Math Olympiad. As for Dr. Maxi Acelajado, she is a dedicated educator whom I work with in a professional organization, the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators Inc.

Dr. Maxima J. Acelajado was awarded in the field of government, educational and international policies. Her outstanding researches on upgrading mathematics teaching in the Philippines were published in books in mathematics she authored and co-authored. These books are now used as prescribed books or references for learning and teaching o mathematics in high school and college Many education experts in the country acknowledged her works to have contributed to the improved and improving performance of both high school and college students in different fields of mathematics.

Dr. Jose A. Marasigan was awarded in the field of mathematics. One of the primary movers in the establishment o Philippine Mathematical Olympiad and the force behind the Program for Excellence in Mathematics, he has developed a special program of instruction fo mathematically gifted youth, many o whom pursued successful careers i mathematics and the sciences.

May these scientists continue to expand their field, serve our country and inspire our youth.

The hypertension specialist program

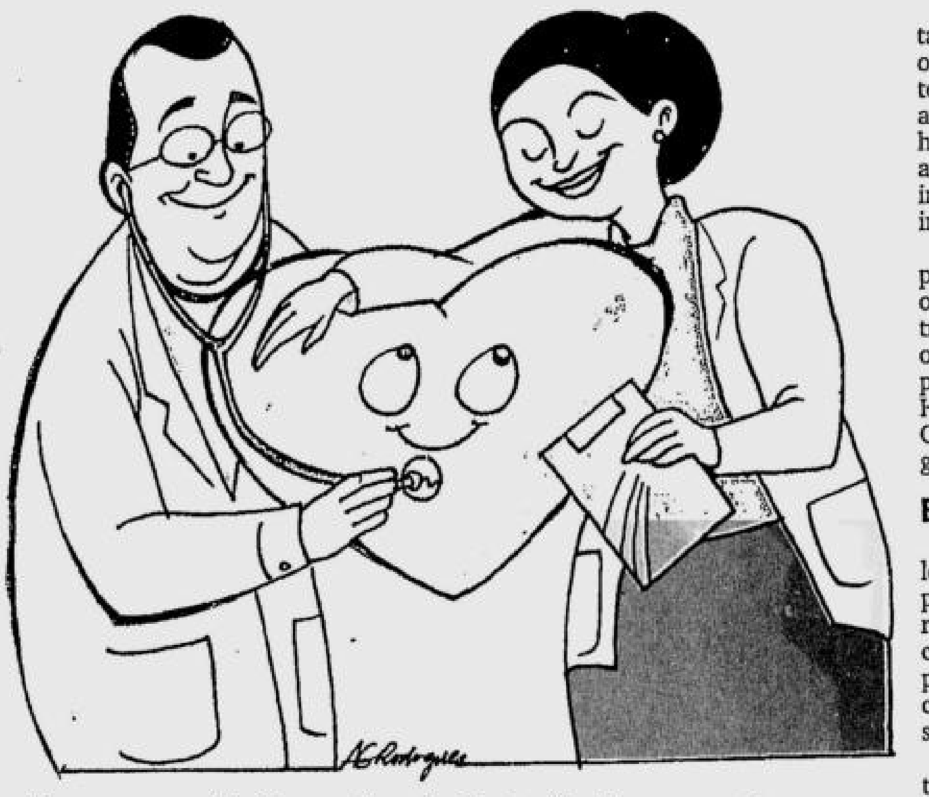
By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Hypertension (PSH), currently headed by Dr. Espie Cabral, is alarmed at the increasing prevalence of hypertension in the country.

What is unfortunate is that majority of these patients have no symptoms and many don't even realize they have high blood pressure (BP). Of those who know they're hypertensive, only half are taking medications; and of those who are taking medications, less than half have their BPs controlled to optimal levels.

Practically nine out of 10 hypertensive patients have uncontrolled BPs which make them good candidates to develop heart attacks and strokes, or literally drop dead before they could realize what was wrong with them.



Detecting these hypertensive patients before they develop serious complications and treating them properly are big challenges for physicians.

Leading cause of illness

Hypertension is now one of the leading causes of illness and deaths in the Philippines. The PSH realizes that its prevention, diagnosis and management are of fundamental importance to public health and require a cooperative and multidisciplinary approach. Primary care physicians play a key role in the identification of patients and the treatment of the majority of hypertensive patients.

The PSH statement says: "Physicians with multidisciplinary knowledge, appropriate training and extensive experience that allow the expert management of the more complex and difficult cases such as secondary hypertension, complicated hypertension, hypertension with associated illnesses and compliance problems are essential. Hence, a formal method of identifying and recognizing these hypertension specialists seems necessary to promote the coordinated effort of frontline health care providers and these physicians with expertise in the management of hypertension."

The PSH thus created the hypertension specialist designation to recognize physicians with expertise and knowledge in the management of hypertension and related disorders.

The goals of the Philippine Hypertension Specialist Program are:

- To identify and recognize Philippine hypertension specialists
- To contribute to the formation of these specialists by establishing and/or accrediting teaching and training programs on hypertension
- To improve the treatment of hypertension in the Philippines
- To help prevent cardiovascular diseases in the Philippines.

Cost-effective prevention

Control of hypertension is among the most cost-effective ways of preventing cardiovascular illness and death. Unfortunately, many hypertensive patients in the Philippines do not receive optimal care for hypertension and do not achieve current BP goals. Many take their antihypertensive medicines erratically and at a dose inadequate to achieve optimal BP targets.

Dr. Cabral explains: "The gap between the predictable benefits of good hypertension care and the actual results from usual practice is substantial and even wider in medically underserved areas of the country. Most hypertensive patients can be effectively managed by primary health care providers: family physicians, general practitioners and general internists. However, a significant proportion of the hypertensive population requires specialized expertise for a variety of conditions recognized in guidelines developed for the care of hypertensive patients."

Hypertension specialists act as consultants and referral physicians for these and other more complex and difficult hypertension cases. They also assist in updating and improving the national guidelines for hypertension detection and management and are expected to remain active not just in hypertension practice but also in teaching and research.

An initial core group composed of all past presidents and the current medical officers and members of the board of trustees of the PSH shall be the first group of hypertension specialists and shall compose the committee of peers of the PSH Hypertension Specialists Program. Dr. Cabral is the chair of this progenitor group and the committee of peers.

Eligibility

All eligible physicians who have at least 10 years of clinical practice and experience in hypertension with particular reference to the treatment of difficult cases and are certified by their respective professional organizations may take the certifying examination for hypertension specialists to be given by the PSH.

All applicants must demonstrate continuing interest and updating in hypertension (e.g., as shown by participation in scientific meetings particularly those endorsed by the PSH and/or active membership in other hypertension-related scientific societies).

Upon approval of their applications and upon passing the examination, physicians become qualified to use the designation PSH-hypertension specialist after their name and will receive a diploma attesting to such from the PSH.

A registry of certified hypertension specialists will be maintained by the PSH.

Hypertension is truly a serious problem that requires more serious attention. It's no longer acceptable that just any doctor can treat any patient with hypertension. Many cases of hypertension are more complicated than they seem.

So, when you have high blood pressure, it's about time you see a hypertension specialist.

(For details on the specialist program, call the PSH secretariat at 631-7970.)

Friendly bacteria help prevent viral infection

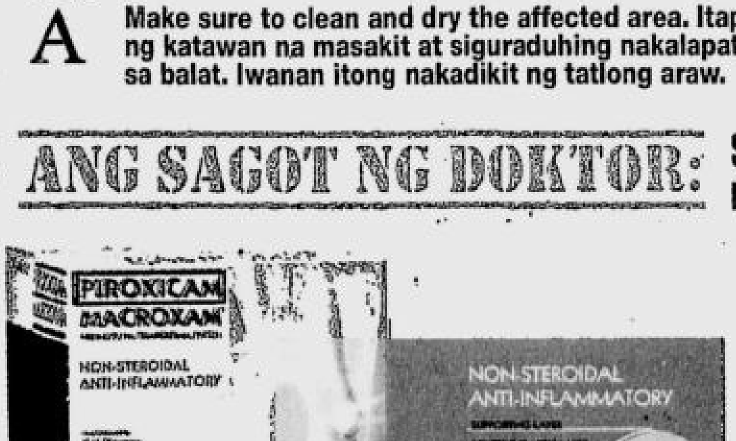
VIRAL infections have been in the news lately. What many of us don't know is that we can prevent them by being properly informed and if we practice the right measures to guard us against any form of sickness.

There have been several studies abroad on certain antiviral control factors that we should know of. One study shows how the beneficial bacteria living in our gastrointestinal tract help prevent certain viruses from becoming serious threats to our health.

Dr. Emmanuel Revici, founder of the Institute of Applied Biology in New York, theorized that many forms of bacteria have developed methods of controlling viruses to protect themselves. Lactobacilli produce large amounts of lactic and other acids, and viruses are not comfortable in an acidic environment. Dr. Revici found out that strains of specific bacteria, like lactobacilli (one of the major good bacterium), secrete a viricidal compound that actually terminates viruses.

Lactic acid bacteria help manufacture B group vitamins, assist in digestion and absorption of nutrients and aid in detoxification.

Lactic acid can be taken through OM-X (Ohhira mountain fruits extracts) Probiotics capsugel. It contains 12 strains of good bacteria, including the lactic acid bacteria, and 18 types of essential and nonessential amino acids, nine types of vitamins and five types of minerals.



RAYUMA ALERT!

ARLO LUIS R. SALVADOR II, M.D.
General Medicine-Psychotherapy & Basic Sports Physician

Q MACROXAM PATCH? Ano ba 'yon?

A **Macroxam is the world's first transdermal Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) patch. It is used for rheumatism, arthritis, osteoarthritis, tenosynovitis, myalgia, osteo-articular pain, pain due to post trauma and post fracture healing. UNLIKE OTHER PATCHES, IT IS ODORLESS.**

Q Ano ba itong Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)? Ano ang kaibahan nito sa iba't-ibang gamot para sa Rayuma gaya ng mga chili plaster, cream o gel?

A **Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug o NSAID, is a class of treatment that provides an analgesic effect on pain. As a result, relief lasts longer than ordinary treatments. PIROXICAM, the NSAID formula in MACROXAM, is the first NSAID in a patch for arthritis. This treatment delivers the drug through the skin and directly to the inflammed joint, thus avoiding long-term adverse reactions and damage to the digestive system, liver and kidneys.**

Q Why should I choose MACROXAM over other oral NSAIDs? Wala bang side effect ang MACROXAM?

A **Because Macroxam is a drug in a patch that works through the skin, it has NO direct gastro-intestinal irritation. MACROXAM greatly minimizes the side effect of liver and kidney damage that usually accompanies orally taken NSAIDs. This is because the plasma concentration of MACROXAM is 50 times less than the oral form of Piroxicam. Skin irritation is a possibility for those with hypersensitive skin.**

Q Magkano ba ito? Baka naman hindi ko kayang bilhin ito?

A **One MACROXAM patch is P75.00, but this is good for 3 days! Isipin mo na lang na kumpara sa ibang NSAIDs na may presyong P76.00 per day (price of 3 popular oral NSAIDs), di ba mas sulit ito dahil good for 3 days?**

[illegible]	Cost per day (Pesos)	Cost per 3 days	Length of pain relief per day	Savings
Brand X Oral NSAID	P 38.00 x 2*	P228.00	12 hours	—
MACROXAM PATCH	[illegible]	75.00	[illegible]	[illegible]

*assumes dose of two tablets per day

So in effect, the use of the MACROXAM patch is not only more effective but also more affordable in the long run because on a cost for 3-day treatment, use of Macroxam is 65% cheaper than the cost of other oral NSAIDs on a two-day treatment.

Q Paano ba ginagamit ang MACROXAM?

A **Make sure to clean and dry the affected area. Itapal ang MACROXAM sa bahagi ng katawan na masakit at siguraduhing nakalapat ng husto ang edges ng patch sa balat. Iwanan itong nakadikit ng tatlong araw.**

ANG SAGOT NG DOKTOR: **Sa MACROXAM, tanggal ang maga na sanhi ng kirot!**

- Sulit sa halagang P75.00 dahil may bisa ng 3 araw.
- Walang side effects at gastro-intestinal reaction.
- Walang aray, walang amoy!

For more information, call Macroxam hotline at Tel. 6329070 or text (0919)3861393 or (0917)9230499 (0916)2816463

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Available at all mercury drug outlets and other leading drugstores nationwide.
NAKASISIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING SAGO

Tiotropium's superiority for COPD patients cited in 2 studies

INGELHEIM, GERMANY—Tiotropium, a novel once daily treatment for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), was shown statistically superior to salmeterol in two recent six-month studies published in the international journal Thorax.

It was statistically superior to salmeterol for peak and average forced expiratory volume (FEV) in one second in values taken in the morning before the first dose of inhaled medications, and forced vital capacity (FVC) when results from the two trials were combined and measured at the end of the study.

Leading cause of death

COPD is a slowly progressive airway disease that causes significant deterioration of lung function and chronic breathlessness that can lead to severe disability. At present, COPD is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, alongside HIV/AIDS. The World Health Organization estimates that by 2020, COPD will be the third leading cause of death and the 12th leading cause of disability in the world.

Complex respiratory disease

Vito Brusasco, professor of respiratory medicine at the University of Genoa, Italy, and the study's principal investigator said: "COPD is a complex respiratory disease which causes multiple symptoms and therefore significant disability for patients. Improvement in lung function is critical for individuals with this disease. These new data show that tiotropium offers patients and doctors a new and important treatment option to help them effectively manage their disease."

Tiotropium is available in the Philippines as Spiriva.

These data show treatment with tiotropium improved shortness of breath (dyspnea), reduced worsening of symptoms (exacerbations) for at least three days and improvement in health-related quality of life compared with placebo. Results showed that the effect of salmeterol on these outcomes was often not consistently statistically different from placebo.

Moreover, patients treated with tiotropium had significantly fewer COPD exacerbations than those treated with placebo, while the difference between salmeterol and placebo was not significant. Previous research showed that the majority of patients with COPD suffer from recurrent exacerbations, and that hospitalization for severe COPD exacerbations accompanied by respiratory failure increases the risk of death within the subsequent two years.

In this study, use of healthcare resources was also reduced in the tiotropium group compared to placebo. In addition, a significantly lower proportion of tiotropium-treated patients required hospitalization.

Most expensive elements

Professor Brusasco said: "From the perspective of health care professionals, exacerbations and hospitalizations are the most expensive and challenging elements of achieving effective treatment for COPD. From a patient's perspective, they significantly worsen health status and may contribute to the progressive decline in lung function observed in COPD. Therefore, reduction of exacerbations is now an important goal in the effective management of COPD. These data show tiotropium meets this challenge."

Dyspnea, or shortness of breath, is the most common complaint of COPD patients. In both studies, only tiotropium was associated with a statistically significant improvement in the proportion of patients achieving a change in the Transition Dyspnea Index (TDI) focal score of at least one unit, whereas salmeterol was associated with this finding in one of the two studies. TDI is a key measure of dyspnea, with a difference of one unit in the focal score considered clinically meaningful. A total of 1,207 patients participated in the two studies, which were designed to compare tiotropium once daily via HandiHaler with salmeterol administered twice daily via metered dose inhaler (MDI) and placebo in patients with COPD. The studies were done in 18 countries and were double blind, double dummy parallel group design. In long-term studies of tiotropium the most frequently reported adverse reaction was dry mouth (14 percent). Dry mouth was usually mild and often resolved with continued treatment.

Launches

Discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim and jointly marketed with Pfizer, Spiriva was launched in June 2002 in five European countries—Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands and Sweden. By year-end it was launched in 13 countries worldwide.

Further regulatory approvals and launches are expected in other countries throughout 2003. By the end of the year it will be launched in a total of 45 countries. New drug submissions have been filed in both the United States and Japan.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Laminate as alternative to bonding

I BROKE my front tooth during a fight. I had the tooth bonded but the bonding kept coming off when I eat hard foods. Am I supposed to eat soft foods for the rest of my life?

Jordan K.

You need something stronger than bonding to hold your tooth. If you chipped your tooth, the bonding is placed on the biting tip. For some people, the bonding stays. But since you said that it keeps coming off, that means the chipped part is too large or you have a rather hard diet.

The next solution should be a laminate. It is similar to a crown but is more conservative because only the front part of the tooth is prepared. This is very advantageous for you. It is more retentive than bonding and is more cosmetic because you can enhance the shape of your tooth.

(E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Older women more prone to cardiovascular deaths

SALT
StephB.

DO you know that cardiovascular disease claims the lives of more women than the 16 next common causes of death in women combined?

Although many women think that their greatest health problem is breast cancer, CVD remains to be the first cause of mortality among women. It is estimated that 500,000 women die each year because of CVD, exceeding the number of deaths because of other causes including all forms of cancer.

There are many misperceptions about risks among women. Fewer than 1 in 10 women think of CVD as their greatest health problem, even though it represents 45 percent of all deaths for women age 25 and older.

Risk of CVD

Elevated cholesterol is one of the most important contributors to a woman's risk of developing heart disease. According to Dr. Esperanza Cabral, current president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and past president of the Philippine Heart Association and the Philippine College of Physicians, the risk of CVD increases in women and it increases when they reach the menopausal age.

"By about 15 years after menopause, the risk of CVD in women is approximately the same as the risk of CVD in men of the same age. This is attributed to the loss of the protective effect against CVD that is attributed to female hormones estrogen and/or progesterone which is possessed by women not yet in the menopausal stage," said Dr. Cabral.

Cholesterol concentration

Plasma cholesterol and triglycerides show a pattern of increasing in men for the first 50 to 60 years of life, then plateau and finally begin to decline. For women, the same pattern exists, but appears to occur 10 years later than men.

High density lipid cholesterol (HDL), which is the good type of cholesterol, does not show the same pattern, but women tend to have higher HDL cholesterol concentrations at least in the premenopausal years which may account for lower incidence of CHD in pre-menopausal women.

As a woman loses estrogen, her body goes through potentially harmful lipid changes, such as an increase in cholesterol levels. Research also indicates that estrogen loss has a direct effect on vascular tone.

Cause of death

As in other developed countries, CVD is the most frequent cause of death in men and women over the age of 60 in the Philippines. Dr. Cabral said the most frequent type of CVD in both men and women of this age is atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease.

Arteriosclerosis involves the buildup of deposits on the inner lining of the artery walls, which causes thickening and hardening of the arteries. People with elevated cholesterol are most prone to acquire such disease.

Healthy lifestyle

Behavioral modification is extremely beneficial in controlling elevated cholesterol levels. To prevent arteriosclerosis, most physicians recommend a healthy lifestyle. "In general, all patients suffering from CVD can benefit from a healthy lifestyle, a balanced diet, moderate to low in fat and salt and rich in fruits and vegetables," Dr. Cabral advised.

She added that maintenance of a desirable body weight, regular aerobic forms of exercise, avoidance of smoking, moderation in alcohol intake, adequate rest and sleep and stress management will help a lot in the management of CVD.

Medical therapy

If dietary restrictions and physical activity are not enough to lower elevated cholesterol levels, medical therapy is very effective. A group of drugs called statins has been proven to lower CVD events and deaths when used to manage elevated cholesterol levels. Statins dramatically lower the risk of dying from coronary heart disease by slowing down the production of cholesterol and by increasing the liver's ability to remove the LDL cholesterol already in the blood. Because of its research-backed track record, statins have become the drugs most often prescribed when a person needs cholesterol-lowering medication.

One big problem though with statin therapy is its cost. Statins are very costly and its price poses a challenge for hypertensive patients with average income. A welcome development is that Therapharma, a division of Unilab, has introduced an affordable brand of simvastatin (Vidastat).

Local healthcare professionals are optimistic this move would encourage the reduction of prices for high-quality drugs that treat chronic diseases such as elevated cholesterol.

Infants who sleep on backs have fewer fevers, ear infections

WASHINGTON—Infants who are put to sleep on their backs enjoy health benefits including fewer fevers and ear infections than those who sleep on their stomachs, according to a study published last Monday.

Researchers previously had found placing infants to sleep on their backs helped reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

The research on 3,733 infants in the US showed that 1-month-olds put to sleep on their backs had fevers less often than those who slept on their stomachs.

At 6 months, the babies sleeping on their backs were less likely to have trouble breathing. And at 3 and 6 months, babies sleeping on their backs were less likely to contract ear infections.

The authors of the study in the Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine did not say why infants who sleep on their backs are less likely to suffer certain illnesses than those sleeping on their stomachs.

They hypothesized that because stomach-sleepers have higher mouth and throat temperatures, those might favor growth of bacteria involved in colds and ear infections. *AFP*

Help your loved ones quit the smoking habit

ATTEMPTING to quit smoking isn't as easy as it seems. If you genuinely care about your family members or friends who smoke, help them quit. Here are some ways you can do so.

- **Give them good reasons to quit.** Of course the best reason for a smoker to quit is that he will live longer and live better, and that quitting will lower his chance of having a heart attack, stroke or cancer.

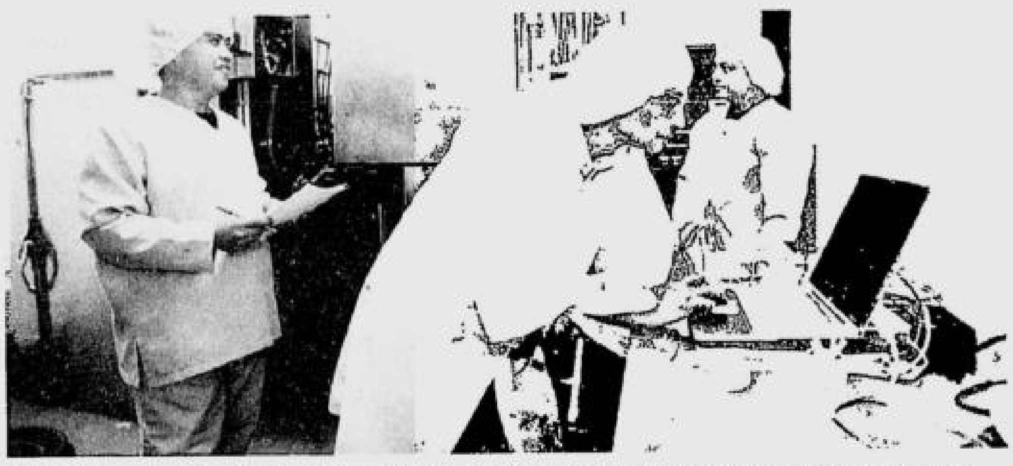
But another good reason is that secondhand smoke has been found to contain significant amounts of the same chemicals that harm smokers. Breathing it can be a hazard to anyone's health, especially children. Because children's bodies are still developing, their exposure to the poisons in secondhand smoke puts them in danger of severe respiratory diseases and can hinder the growth of their lungs. On top of that, the effects can last a lifetime. Secondhand smoke is so harmful that the US Environmental Protection Agency has classified it as a "Group A" carcinogen—the most toxic substances known to cause cancer in humans that include benzene, radon and asbestos.

- **Provide a supportive environment.** Now that your loved one is motivated to quit, let him know you care and you will be there for him through this difficult period. Here are some steps you can take to help him carry out his resolution and to stick to it.

1. Set a date. Then tell family, friends, coworkers he has decided to quit and that you both want their support. Ask them not to smoke around him or leave cigarettes out.
2. Throw away all the smoker's cigarettes, lighters and ashtrays.
3. When the smoker feels the urge to light up a stick, tell him to do something else. Engage him in conversation, tell him to go for a walk, or to get busy with a task. Tell him to change his routine. He can also go to places where he is not allowed to smoke, like the movies or the mall.
4. Encourage him to drink lots of water and fruit juice, but not to drink anything with caffeine in it, like soda, coffee or tea.

- **Use medical aid.** Although behavioral treatments can be successful when employed alone, science has taught us that an integral approach with a medical aid will be the most effective treatment for nicotine addiction. Most quit-smoking products actually contain nicotine. They fail because the effect, if any, is felt much later in the program when most would-be quitters have given up trying.

Products such as Naturstopp — Aid to Stop Smoking have been developed to effectively assist smokers break from the addiction completely and early.



QUALITY control is strictly followed inside Pharmawealth Lab to ensure quality medicines.

Injecting affordable medicine to Filipinos

IMAGINE performing miracles with just the aid of a syringe and a tiny bottle. As minuscule as they may seem, there is no denying that injectables (also known as ampules) are one of medicine's greatest contributions.

Widely used for preventive and curative healthcare, injections administered each year worldwide are estimated at 12 billion. The number of lives saved through this simple procedure could also be just as much.

Major impact

In preventive healthcare alone, vaccinations through injections have had major impact in reducing child mortality due to measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Ninety percent, however, of administered injections are for curative purposes. In hospital settings, injections are mostly needed for treating severe diseases. Medical practitioners often use injections to administer such antibiotics as penicillin, streptomycin and other life-saving medications to their patients.

Affordable medicines

Believing in the importance of having these life-saving medicines readily available to those most in need, Dr. Ferjenel G. Biron established Phil Pharmawealth Inc. With the aim of providing quality yet affordable medicines to Filipinos, the company has focused most of its resources in distributing and marketing parenteral products or injectables.

The Generics Act of 1988, a health policy launched by the government to help the poor afford medicines, paved the way for injectables to be available as generic drugs. Thus, Pharmawealth was able to establish a market niche in these life-saving injectable medicines.

DR. Biron

Today the organization enjoys the trust and confidence of 40 highly reputable pharmaceutical manufacturers around the world including B Braun.

With 120 formulations and still expanding, Phil Pharmawealth was able to affect market trends forcing its competitors to lower their prices.

New products

This year alone, Phil Pharmawealth is set to launch 35 new products including the latest generation of quinolones, steroid inhalations and bronchodilators. It is also set to sign an agreement with Sanbe Pharma, Indonesia's top pharmaceutical company, to market opthalmic formulations and antibiotic products.

Soon, the company through its own multiparenteral facility, Pharmawealth Laboratories Inc., will start manufacturing cephalosporin injections, a "first" in the Philippines, further strengthening their commitment to help the government save lives.

Current Concepts in Osteoarthritis

HELP YOUR JOINTS HEAL

By: Mario M. Ramirez, M.D.

What is osteoarthritis and what is its cause?

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative condition in which the cartilage, the cushion of a joint, wears down. And when it wears down over time and the body's ability to replace it slows or ceases, the result is osteoarthritis, the most common form of arthritis. This painful and potentially disabling condition often goes along with aging.

Pain relievers, over-the-counter and prescription, are the chief medical treatment. But nearly all of these drugs increase the risk of gastrointestinal bleeding. And they do nothing to halt the advance of arthritis. Indeed, some researchers believe that these drugs can make it worse.

What are Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulphate?

Glucosamine and chondroitin sulphate are substances found naturally in the body. Glucosamine is a form of amino sugar that is believed to play a role in cartilage formation and repair. Chondroitin sulphate is part of a large protein molecule (proteoglycan) that gives cartilage elasticity.

What do they do?

Past studies show that some people with mild to moderate osteoarthritis (OA) taking either glucosamine or chondroitin sulphate reported pain relief at a level similar to that of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin and ibuprofen. Some research indicates that the supplements might also slow cartilage damage in people with OA. Definitive results about the effects of these supplements are expected from an in-depth clinical study currently being conducted by the National Institutes of Health.

Dynamic Trio with Glucosamine, Chondroitin and MSM

Successful treatment of osteoarthritis must effectively control pain, and should slow down or reverse progression of the disease. Biochemical and pharmacological data combined with animal and human studies demonstrate **Glucosamine sulphate** is capable of satisfying these criteria. Glucosamine sulphate's primary biological role in halting or reversing joint degeneration appears to be directly due to its ability to act as an essential substrate for, and to stimulate the biosynthesis of, the glycosaminoglycans and the hyaluronic acid backbone needed for the formation of proteoglycans found in the structural component of joints. **Chondroitin sulphates**, whether they are absorbed intact or broken into their components, similarly provide additional substrates for the formation of a healthy joint matrix. **MSM** (methyl- sulfonyl-methane) is organic sulfur. With increasing age, arthritic cartilage contains only one-third of the sulfur concentration of healthy cartilage. MSM is often considered one of the safest and most effective supplement for chronic pain due to arthritis. MSM further aids in the absorption of calcium thus helping in osteoporosis prevention. ***Dynamic Trio*** contains all three products plus the added benefit of **Bee Pollen** which is considered to be "a Complete Low-Calorie Food" since it contains all the necessary nutrients needed to sustain life. It also shows strong antibacterial properties particularly against disease causing E.coli and Proteus. **Bee pollen** contains Lecithin which helps lower LDL (bad cholesterol). Various other benefits ranging from prostate problems to acne seem to be derived from Bee Pollen supplement. **Propolis**, another component of Dynamic Trio, has strong antiseptic particularly anti-streptococcal and anti-viral properties and helps stimulate the natural resistance of the body. **Royal Jelly** is rich in natural hormones as well as Vitamins B, C, A, E, Gamma Globulin (an immune system booster), Gelarin (a precursor of collagen, which has anti-aging properties) and Pantothenic Acid, The "Longevity Factor." These added benefits make ***Dynamic Trio with Glucosamine Sulphate*** an essential natural supplement for a healthy pain-free joint.

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EAST WEST BANK BRINGS YOU INFINITE BANKING POSSIBILITIES

One of the most captivating banking logos today is East West Bank's Double Infinity Icon – two infinity symbols entwined and painted in rich colors of red, green and yellow. The intriguing logo symbolizes East West Bank's three-point corporate philosophy—dynamism, connectivity and infinite possibilities.

A corporate philosophy hinged on the concept of infinity is truly an ambitious one. The Bank is bound to a promise to deliver concretely. After all, backing up a strong claim to superlative traits with the appropriate action is no easy feat.

But since adopting the philosophy two years ago, East West Bank has worked hard to make sure it delivers on its promise.

The promise of dynamism is addressed in the many changes the bank has adopted of late. The Bank readily explored new and untried ways of doing business and dealing with clients so that it fulfills its underlying goal of "un-banking" the bank. Its banking system and host of products and services change the concept of banking as we know it. Adhering to the concept of infinite possibilities, East West Bank is embracing changes to make its products friendlier to customers and its services more personal. The Bank was at the forefront of providing in-branch Internet kiosks so that clients can have a faster, accessible channel to do their banking transactions. The Bank also adopted new ways of being customer-centric by customizing products to suit the specific needs of its corporate and individual clients. Hence, on top of the standard banking services, the Bank offers customizable cash management products including PayrollAssist, ChequePrepare, BillsCollect, and BizCheque. Its Home Suite Loan offers specific programs to suit the needs of individual clients at any stage of their life cycle – whether to initially invest in a lot, buy a new home, run a business, or finally to choose a retirement haven. The loan programs are also coupled with a repayment plan that protects them from fluctuating interest rates throughout the term of the loan.

East West Bank connects with its clients in a myriad of ways using the tool of the millennium—Information Technology. With it, banking at East West Bank has become easier through services like the NetAccess, an online banking facility for corporate and individual customers; MobileAccess, a phonebanking facility using a GSM phone; and ATM Access, the 24-7 facility for a host of banking services like cash withdrawals, fund transfers, and bills payments.

Harnessing the power of such technology, the Bank also embarked in setting up yet another important venue where its clients can meet and do business with other clients through the internet portal, *www.mylife.com.ph*, a website that initially offers free 12 MB email service. Through the portal, East West Bank intends to develop a virtual community where interaction between customers and non-customers can take place and experience the services that the bank offers.

These plus many more make up East West Bank's efforts to deliver on its promise to customers, changing the face of banking and making it more relevant to the modern individual. And because East West Bank believes that the possibilities are endless, it promises to continue exploring more "out-of-the-box" ways to do business with clients. But with the ultimate goal in mind— build relationships and complete lives.

ADV

Gov't moves to resolve US-RP telecom dispute

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT is stepping in to patch up the widening rift between Philippine and US telecommunication companies on fears that it could drive American call centers away from the country.

The Department of Trade and Industry is projecting the doubling of the contact center capacity of the country from 15,000 to 30,000 seats this year as it intensifies its program to attract more American firms to establish some of their business processes in the country.

Roxas reported that during the RP-US Trade and Investment Consultative (TIC) subministerial meeting, the American panel warned that US call centers and other IT investors might view the dispute as a negative signal and that they might opt to locate in other countries. The meeting was done through a video-conference with Trade and Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, who was heading the Philippine panel with US Deputy Assistant Trade Representative Barbara Weisel representing the US.

But local carriers led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. refuted this claim as "exaggerated and unfair" because call centers course their businesses through leased lines that have a different pricing structure.

The dispute arose from AT&T and MCI WorldCom Inc.'s complaint filed with the US Federal Communications Commission on the local carriers' decision to raise rates for international inbound calls from 8 to 12 cents for land line calls and from 12 cents to 16 cents for mobile phone calls.

The American carriers complained that the rate increases were unacceptable although the National Telecommunications Authority pointed out that they were within the range sanctioned by the FCC and were lower than the termination rates charged by other Asian countries.

Roxas said the government would support the domestic telecommunications sector and work for the speedy resolution of the termination rates to further enhance the country's edge in information and communications technology.

Investments in contact center projects have grown by 181.16 percent from 2000 to 2002 to nearly P5 billion. This was accounted for mainly by American call center giants such as Convergys, InfoNXX, Ambergris and C-cubed.

The US Department of Commerce will tackle the issue during a meeting next week in time for President Macapagal-Arroyo's US trip where she planned to promote the Philippines as a business process outsourcing hub.

SERVICES SECTOR

Labor wants liberalization talks shelved

THE COUNTRY'S labor sector is urging the government to put on hold all negotiations for the opening up of the services sector under the World Trade Organization in order to assess the liberalization's impact on local service industries.

In a letter to Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, Union Network International-Philippine Labor Council general secretary Jose P. Umali Jr. said the government must first come up with a consensus on the national trade policy agenda that would include core labor standards such as freedom of association, right to collective bargaining, and observance of minimum compensation standards and health and safety standards.

UNI is a Swiss-based union federation in the services sector with 20 million members in 120 countries.

Umali complained about the lack of consultation and transparency on the trade requests and offers made and the status of negotiations. "We have a right to be informed and consulted on these matters as these are issues that directly affect our lives and jobs," Umali said.

The group is particularly worried about the inclusion of postal service, water distribution and electricity transmission on the wish list of services sector forwarded by the European Union to the Philippine government.

Umali said that based on the country's experience, liberalization and privatization had increased and not decreased the cost of services in the country.

Umali said the state-induced mergers in the banking industry have made banking services un-affordable to ordinary workers and have been used as a pretext to lay off their workforce.

Following the WTO meeting in Doha in November 2001, the Philippines and other developing countries have to hold wide-ranging negotiations on the proposed liberalization of various service industries.

The requests were supposed to be submitted last June while the offers were scheduled for submission last March. The status of negotiations on the General Agreement on Trade in Services will be discussed during the WTO meeting in Cancun, Mexico in September. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

EASTWESTBANK
Building Relationships. Completing Lives.

Double Infinity (dub'l) (in'fin e' ti) n.

state of endlessness

an overlapped modification of the "love knot" symbol as introduced by English mathematician John Wallis

A corporate philosophy of East West Bank that represents dynamism, connectivity and infinite possibilities in banking

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SATURDAY Special

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AFP PHOTOS

CANNES 2003

Big bucks, big numbers at world's premier film event

CANNES—The spotlights and cameras of the world focus on the Riviera city of Cannes for the ongoing annual mega-movie festival that closes May 25 with the Palme d'Or awards ceremony.

Highlights

Following are highlights of the 12-day film marathon:

City: The Mediterranean city of Cannes is home to 70,000 people, but accommodates some 210,000 during the festival, meaning that the 5,000 rooms in its 140 hotels are generally booked well in advance. The festival is big business for the city, keeping its 500 restaurants full and bringing in an estimated 120 million euros (dollars).

Films/official selection: This year's 56th edition of the festival will showcase 52 feature-length films from 24 countries, including 40 world premieres.

The official selection includes: 20 films from 13 countries competing for the Palme d'Or; the opening and closing features, French movie "Fanfan La Tulipe" and a restored copy of Charlie Chaplin's "Modern Times"; 11 films being screened out of competition or in special sessions, including the much-anticipated Hollywood blockbuster "The Matrix Reloaded"; 19 films from 14 countries chosen as part of the "Un Certain Regard" auteur movies.

Officials

Prequel to Cannes: To narrow down to 20 the films competing for the Palme d'Or and showing as part of "Un Certain Regard," the officials who traveled the world in the months leading up to the festival saw 2,498 movies (908 features and 1,590 short films). That was more than than in 2002 when they watched 2,281 movies, compared to 1,798 in 2001 and 1,397 in 2,000.

Fringe sections: The out-of-competition Director's Fortnight runs on the fringes of the mainstream festival, May 15-25. It has 25 feature-length movies from 19 countries, all but one making a world premiere. There will also be 18 short films showing.

The smaller fringe event, Critics' Week, runs May 15-23 and includes seven features and seven shorts.

Juries: US actress Meg Ryan and director Steven Soderbergh are among eight people joining jury president Patrice Chereau to decide on the winner of the Palme d'Or. Also on the jury will be Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai, French actors Jean Rochefort and Karin Viard, directors Danis Tanovic of Bosnia and Jiang Wen of China, and Italian writer Erri de Luca.

German director Wim Wenders will chair the jury handing out the Camera d'Or for Best First Film.

Mauritanian director Abderrahmane Sissako will head a jury that will hand out prizes for the best of the 19 films se-

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Top stars to perform in new musical films

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

GERE. Memorable performance in "Chicago."

JACKMAN. To sing and dance in "Oklahoma."

DIESEL. Wants to perform in "Guys and Dolls."

OUR Q and A this week:

FromToni Sto. Tomas of Quezon City, "I have always loved Richard Gere. But his recent performance in 'Chicago' was an unexpected treat. What's next for the sexiest gray-haired man on the planet? Any word on other musicals for the big screen?"

Yes, musicals are making a grand comeback on the big screen, especially after the splash that "Chicago" and "Moulin Rouge" made at the Oscars and at the box office. Hugh Jackman is talking about trading in his Wolverine suit to do the film version of "Oklahoma," in whose stage version he won an Olivier nomination.

Gamblers

"XXX" star Vin Diesel, who also traces his roots to theater, wants to star in "Guys and Dolls," the 1955 musical about a couple of gamblers who gets smitten by a pretty Salvation Army officer. The musical, which boasts of the popular show tunes, "I've Never Been in Love Before" and "Luck Be A Lady," originally starred Frank Sinatra, Jean Simmons and Marlon Brando (yes, he *sang,* too).

There are also reports about the film versions of "Nine," in which Antonio Banderas' performance may just win him a Tony, and, hold your breath, "Miss Saigon."

"Les Miserables" has been adapted to the screen, starring Liam Neeson, Uma Thurman and Claire Danes, but it was not a musical production.

Michael Crawford, the original West End star of "The Phantom of the Opera," is lobbying to land the same role in the movie version, but it looks like Gerald Butler beat him to it. Joel Schumacher ("Phonebooth") directs the film, with Katie Holmes ("Dawson's Creek") portraying Christine. Cole Porter's bio, "The Life," is also in pre-production, and will star Kevin Kline and Ashley Judd.

Salsa king

But what is even more interesting is that a "Rent" movie is in the works, and will reportedly feature salsa king Marc Anthony, Dayanara Torres' hubby, in one of the coveted roles. It will be directed by Spike Lee, whose dark urban dramas give him enough credentials to handle the pop-rock show's dark themes.

A film version of "Urinetown," the Tony-winning musical about a post-apocalyptic world whose population must pay to urinate, known for its vocally exacting songs and great narrative despite a hard-to-believe premise, is also being discussed.

On the other hand, C.S. Lewis' "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe's" film rights were bought by Disney last December as it starts its trek to the big screen. The movie will be directed by Andrew Adamson, co-director of "Shrek."

As for Golden Globe winner Richard Gere, he recently signed on to do the remake of the 1996 film festival circuit favorite, Masayuki Suo's "Shall We Dance."

Record

It had audiences cheering when it debuted in Sundance in 1997. It holds the record for top US box office gross for a Japanese-language film: $9 million.

The movie is about an overworked accountant (Gere), tired of the boring routine that his life has become, who sees a beautiful dance teacher (Jennifer Lopez) through a window. He decides to start taking lessons from her in order to get to know her better. As the joy of dancing enters his life, he discovers that it may just be the secret to saving his troubled marriage.

The film, which had Tom Hanks in the lead role during initial discussions in 1998, will be directed by Peter Chelsom ("Serendipity"). It will start shooting in Canada next month, and is scheduled for an early 2004 release.

From Analyn Sumagib of Cebu, "Is Mel Gibson as cool off-camera as he is described in magazine interviews? Is it true that the fourth installment of 'Mad Max' is in the works?"

Mel is known for his well-orchestrated pranks during shooting. His co-stars, including Jodie Foster and Sigourney Weaver, adore him. But it hasn't always been like that. During his very first play as a drama student at the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts in Sydney, Australia, he suffered from terrible stage fright. He was so nervous he was unable to stand and had to play the role sitting down!

As for "Mad Max," the franchise that catapulted Mel to international stardom in 1979, Gibson was slated to reprise the role in "Mad Max: Dirty Road," in which the post-apocalyptic Max finds himself in violent fights against other desert warriors over scarce oil resources.

But because of the Iraq war, filming of the George Miller-directed flick has been moved from July this year to spring of 2004, in the southwestern African nation of Namibia.

Comedienne Ai-Ai gets serious about motherhood

By Edmund L. Sicam

DE LAS ALAS. Grew up with two mothers.

THE MOVIE "Ang Tanging Ina" is a serio-comic look at the life of a single mother, played by Ai Ai de las Alas, who has had to raise 12 children by different fathers, all by herself. When I sat down with the comedienne recently, the discussion turned serious as she opened up about her personal life both as a single mother and her experiences growing up with two mothers. Ai Ai, however, didn't dwell on her misery but added comic touches to her storytelling.

Spinster aunt

Ai-Ai shares that she was raised by a spinster-aunt. For the first seven years of her life, she thought that her aunt was her mother. Then one day, her aunt's co-workers asked her who her mother was. When Ai-Ai pointed to her aunt, they teased her, *"Nanay? E wala naman itong asawa?"* It was then that her aunt told her the truth that her real mother lived in the province.

Understandably, Ai-Ai was crushed. When she first met her biological mother, she did not know how to relate to her. Most of all, she did not know what to call her. *"Di ko siya tinatawag na 'nanay'. Sinusutsutan ko lang, 'Pssst, kakain na po.'"* recalls Ai-Ai. *"Pag naaalala ko iyon, parang naiiyak ako kasi alam ko* how painful *para sa totoo kong inay na hindi ko siya matawag na 'nanay.'"*

Ai-Ai says that she finally got close to her mother when she got married. *"Noong nagkakaproblema na ako sa* marriage *ko, tinakbuhan ko ang nanay ko. Bakit ganoon? Wala akong kakampi.* Failure *na nga yung* marriage *ko, galit pa sa akin ang nanay ko. Si* Mama Mary *lang ang kakampi ko. Bakit ganoon? E dalawa kayong nanay ko?"*

She describes her present relationship with her mother as "on and off." *"Parang relasyon namin ni* Miguel (Vera), on and off *din!"* Ai-Ai jokes.

Rebellious

The comedienne recalls that her aunt was very strict when she was growing up. As a result, she became rebellious when she was in college.

Now, she is the single mother of three children. And like her aunt, she says she is quite strict, but the difference is, she's open: "Constant communication *at respeto sa kanila bilang anak ko, at respeto nila sa akin bilang nanay."*

Corporal punishment

Ai-Ai says that she is a believer in corporal punishment. *"Kasi yung* punishment *ang dadalhin mo, maaalala mo hanggang paglaki mo,* so *hindi mo mauulit yung kasalanan na nagawa mo."*

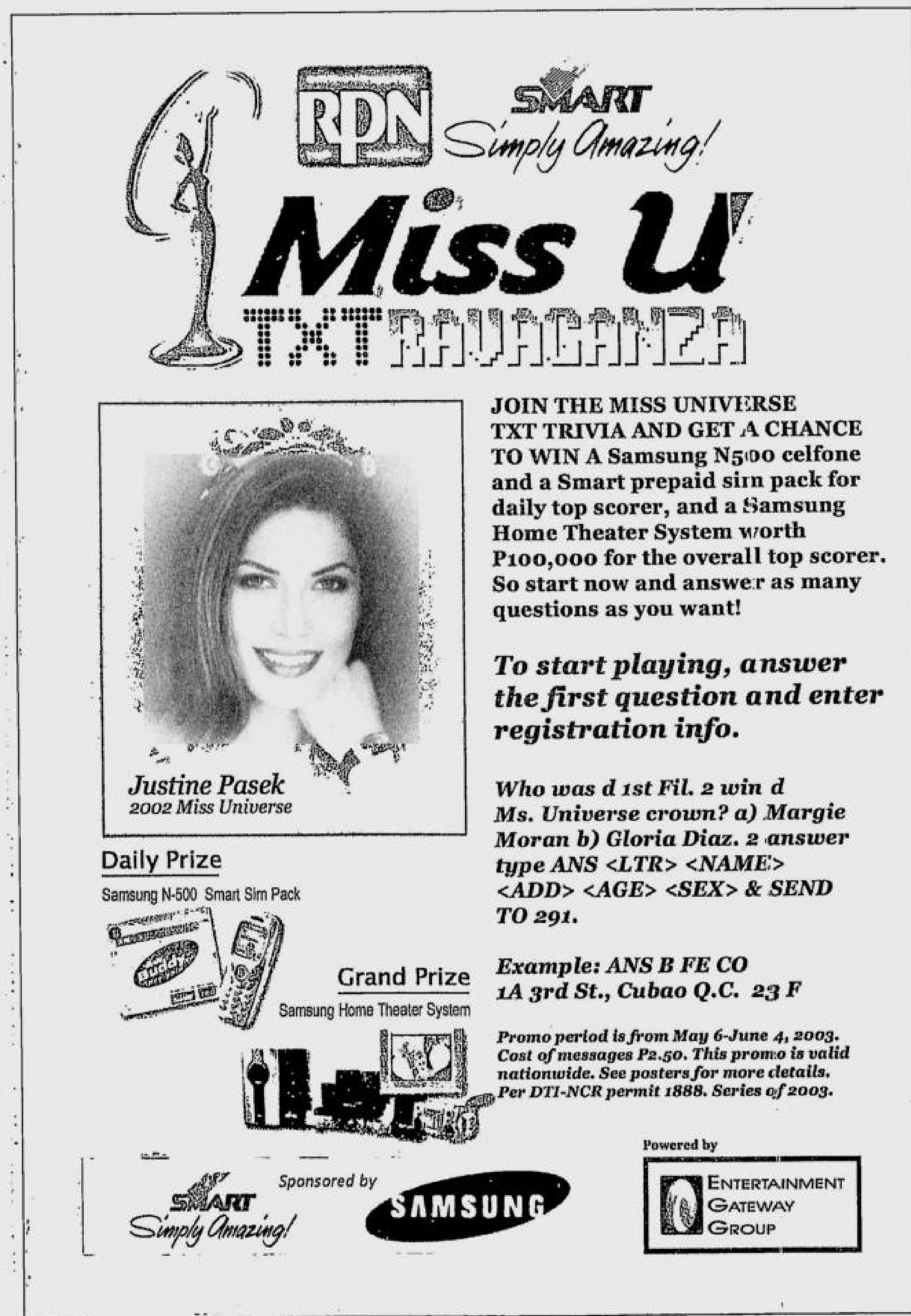
But she admits that spanking her children is not an easy thing for her to do. *"Pag pinapalo ko sila, umiiyak ako pag talikod ko!"*

Ai-Ai is obsessed with the thought that her children need to have their father around, lest they share her fate. However, she is consoled by the fact that her children are close to her and that she has established good lines of communication with them.

Ai-Ai realizes the importance of her presence in her children's lives. That is why, when her children says they need her at an event, she tries her best to be present.

Basketball

Ai-Ai relates that she once attended a basketball activity of one of her children. *"Panlalaki iyon! Kahit wala akong ginagawa doon, nagshu-*shoot-shoot *lang ako, masaya na sila doon. Tinatanong ko yung ibang bata, 'Nasaan ang papa mo?' 'Wala. Masakit ang paa.' 'Mama mo?' 'Hindi po marunong mag-*basketball.' So, proud *naman ako!"*



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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'Actors on Acting' traces original wellsprings of performance

By Noelani Torre

IF you're in the mood for light reading, we wouldn't recommend "Actors on Acting: The Theories, Techniques, and Practice of the World's Great Actors, Told in Their Own Words" (Crown Trade Paperbacks).

Splendid introduction

This 600-page volume isn't for the casual reader, but it's a splendid introduction for those who want to know more about the art of acting.

Focusing on western acting tradition, editors Toby Cole and Helen Krich Chinoy have arranged the entries chronologically, beginning with the roots of western acting itself and ending with contemporary theater artists' theories about their craft.

The entries are also grouped by country, and each one is preceded by a biographical sketch of the actor-author, which helps the reader put his or her words in the proper context.

This is a thoroughly researched book. It comes not only with a helpful introduction, but also with an index and bibliography for future reference.

Insightful discussion

It's also the only book of its kind that we've found so far. Not surprising, say the editors, as "it has been hard for the actor to take himself seriously as an artist" since "an art that cannot be separated from its artists and examined independently and retrospectively cannot easily elicit insightful discussion from the artist himself, or from critics and enthusiasts."

Take a look at ancient Greece, the place where "the histrionic tradition of the world originated:" In Greece, drama and acting evolved from "ritual choral dances" held in honor of the god of wine and fertility, Dionysus. It's also interesting to note that there is a "first" actor, Thespis, who apparently "introduced impersonation." So that's where the word *thespian* comes from . . .

The first actors were almost always the poets themselves. Aeschylus and Sophocles, for example, acted in their own plays and were often stage managers as well.

Greek actors wore large stylized masks that no doubt gave their audiences a better grasp of the characters they played. The amphitheaters where they performed were huge places that could accommodate thousands, thus the masks made the actors more visible and centered the crowd's attention on them.

Inspiration

These actors, however, did not write down their theories concerning their art, and no one else during that period wrote any detailed discussions about acting. Thus we are forced to rely on the writings of such men as Plato, Aristotle and Plutarch, who discussed imitation, inspiration, poetry and rhetoric—all of which are related to acting.

The other entries included in this period are an anecdote about a famous actor, Polus, and a detailed listing of the comic and tragic masks that the actors used. All this gives us a hazy but real portrait of those ancient performers who paved the way for succeeding generations.

The Romans, like the Greeks, left no written records by actors on acting. This is more understandable in the Roman context because, unlike the Greeks, Roman actors "did not enjoy the high social and religious position of their Greek predecessors." Most of them were slaves, and though a few of them became famous and wealthy, they "were exceptions whose success and greatness did not raise the status of the actor."

Similarities

For the Roman period, we rely on the writings of orators like Cicero and Quintilian, and rhetoricians like Lucian. Cicero's dialogue is actually about oratory, but in it he points out the similarities in technique of the orator and the actor, and thus we can glean information about the way Roman audiences expected their actors to comport themselves on stage.

The Middle Ages, the period that followed the decline of the Roman Empire, were characterized by "the absence of written drama and regular theaters." Thus there are no discourses on acting to be found during that period.

Wandering mimes preserved the acting tradition, albeit offstage, and though they were generally persecuted, they were also very popular in both village and manor. It was the church that found much to object to in theater, but ironically, through its liturgical dramas, it also kept formal acting alive.

These early periods of histrionic history show us incomplete pictures, but actors of all ages have always been aware of the ephemeral quality of their art. And, though we may not know everything about them, their legacy lives on in us.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

IBC-13 sees itself as bearer of good news

By Bibsy M. Carballo

IN an aggressive move to make its presence felt in the television industry, IBC-13 recently launched its newest shows alongside other network-produced shows as part of its re-invigorated programming.

Stance

The launching signifies the network's stance in pushing its "alternative channel" programming, over the competition fever between the giants, GMA-7 and ABS-CBN.

In his speech, IBC president Atty. Rene Bello stressed the station's mission "to become the true bearer and herald of good news."

Citing a recent survey that showed that 80 percent of Filipinos would opt to live abroad for the simple reason that they are losing hope in the future of this country, Attorney Bello stated, "Unless positive and concrete steps are undertaken now to arrest this seemingly increasing apathy among our people, we might wake up one day to a shattered nation."

Niche

Daunting as it may seem, he continued, IBC-13 is seeking to carve a niche of its own by providing news and public affairs programs that are ennobling, edifying, and encourage a more positive and optimistic outlook for the future.

"Our power, as media practitioners, to mold and influence the minds and hearts of our people, specially the youth of today, is awesome. Let us then make full use of this power, coupled with responsibility and accountability to God and country," he said.

It will be recalled that after the Edsa Revolution in 1986, IBC-13 underwent a change of management, from a private family enterprise to a government entity. "The transition was difficult," recounted Bello, "for it came with numerous labor cases, property claims, and ownership disputes, which practically tied up and sapped the resources of the network."

Today, while IBC-13 continues to face new challenges and difficulties in its corporate life, Bellow reports that the station is in a far better situation than it was 17 years ago.

Mission

True to its mission, IBC-13 shows are Pinoy-friendly, even while remaining entertaining. "CelebrityDATcom," hosted by Angelu de Leon, TJ Manotoc and Dolly Ann Carvajal, which premieres May 22 at 9:30 p.m., is replete with show biz happenings, lifestyle news and sports events. "KidsCetera," a mom and kid show hosted by Lotlot de Leon and Goyong, is attuned to Pinoy rearing and parenting, and will air in June.

"A Taste of Life with Heny Sison" is a cooking show with the licensed chef co-hosting with two other accomplished culinary experts. "EntrePinoy," hosted by January Isaac, is dedicated to the various aspects of entrepreneurship. "Good Take," with host Zora Ruth Andam, Bb. Pilipinas Universe 2001, is two-tine CMMA awardee as Best Adult Educational Program, and features inspiring stories of individuals who have risen above challenges.

Beautiful islands

"Travel," hosted by Chiqui Roa-Puno, focuses on our beautiful islands and Filipino customs, traditions and beliefs. "Linawin Natin," with Jarius Bondoc and Thelma Dumpit, presents the many sides of an issue. "Game Channel," hosted by young jock Iya, is an interactive game show that makes use of the popular SMS component of mobile phone.

ROA-PUNO. Her new show, "Travel," boosts local tourism prospects.

DE LEON. One of the hosts of "CelebrityDATcom."

SISON. Licensed chef and host of "A Taste of Life."

BONDOC. Hosts "Linawin Natin."

IYA. Young jock on "Game Channel."

Big bucks . . .

From page C1

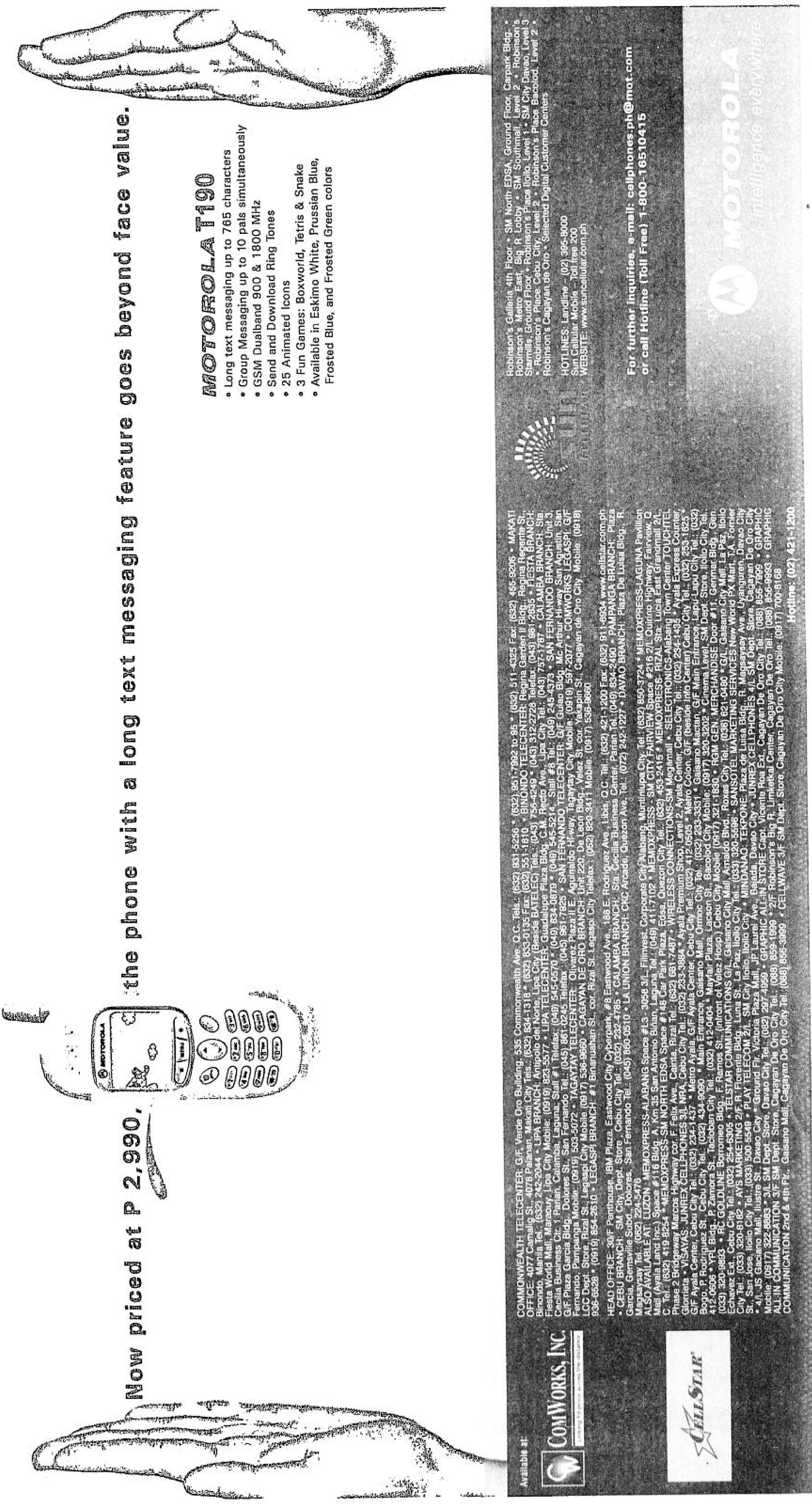
lected for "Un Certain Regard."

Journalists

Media: With 3,200 journalists due, the festival is said to be the world's second biggest media event after the Olympic Games.

Market: Cannes is also the scene of what is known as "the Market"—the busy forum where some 7,000 producers, distributors, agents, writers and publicists wheel and deal over films that have wrapped or that are searching to be made.

In all, around 700 movies will be shown and 1,400 screenings organized at the market. *AFP*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3 JOHNNY ENGLISH
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3 PUNLA

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3 PUNLA

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1 X-MEN-2
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 WALANG KAPALIT
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1
2

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 XEREX
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 RESERVE

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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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2 X-MEN-2
3 TILL THERE WAS YOU
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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Cine Nepo Mall

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2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 WALANG KAPALIT
7 XEREX
8 THE HOURS

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1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 THE HOURS
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 CONFESSIONS OF A...
5 THE MATRIX RELOADED
6 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
7 THE MATRIX RELOADED
8 TILL THERE WAS YOU
9 X-MEN 2
10 WALANG KAPALIT

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

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1 CONFESSIONS OF A ...
2 JOHNNY ENGLISH
3 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 X-MEN 2
6 WALANG KAPALIT
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9 WALANG KAPALIT
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11 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
12 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY MANILA

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2 X-MEN 2
3 THE HOURS
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 XEREX
8 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
9 WALANG KAPALIT
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11 TILL THERE WAS YOU
12 WALANG KAPALIT

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 X-MEN 2
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED
5 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
6 THE HOURS
7 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
8 WALANG KAPALIT
9 WALANG KAPALIT
10 THE MATRIX RELOADED
11 TILL THERE WAS YOU
12 XEREX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 THE HOURS
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 WALANG KAPALIT
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 X-MEN 2
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 X-MEN 2
2 X-MEN 2
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 WALANG KAPALIT
5 BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 WALANG KAPALIT
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED
9 TILL THERE WAS YOU
10 BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 X-MEN 2
3 VIRGIN PEOPLE 3
4 JUNGLE BOOK 2
5 TILL THERE WAS YOU
6 WALANG KAPALIT
7 WALANG KAPALIT
8 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 JUNGLE BOOK 2
2 CLOSED
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 WALANG KAPALIT
5 X-MEN 2
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED
7 CLOSED
8 RING 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 THE MATRIX RELOADED
3 X-MEN 2
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 WALANG KAPALIT
6 WALANG KAPALIT

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1 WALANG KAPALIT
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 THE MATRIX RELOADED
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

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2514302

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 TILL THERE WAS YOU
3 WALANG KAPALIT
4 X-MEN 2

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 X-MEN 2
4 TILL THERE WAS YOU
5 JUNGLE BOOK 2
6 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM BICUTAN

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 WALANG KAPALIT
4 THE MATRIX RELOADED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

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1 THE MATRIX RELOADED
2 WALANG KAPALIT
3 JUNGLE BOOK 2
4 X-MEN 2

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10:35 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:25 END

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2 THE HOURS
3 MATRIX RELOADED
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7 KIKAY
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4 MATRIX RELOADED
5 WALANG KAPALIT
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3 WALANG KAPALIT
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6 JUNGLE BOOK 2

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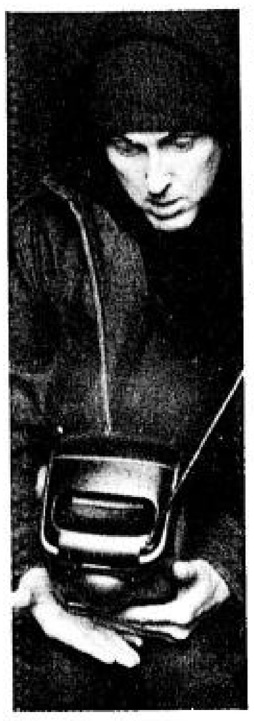
Eminem nixes parody of new song



YANKOVIC impersonates Eminem. AP

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Eminem may poke fun at himself in videos, but he doesn't want "Weird Al" Yankovic doing it.

Video

Eminem won't give Yankovic permission to shoot a video for his new song, "Couch Potato," a parody of Eminem's Oscar-winning tune "Lose Yourself," Yankovic said.

"The only reason I could glean was that making a Weird Al music video would detract from his legacy as a serious hip-hop artist," Yankovic said

EMINEM/ C6

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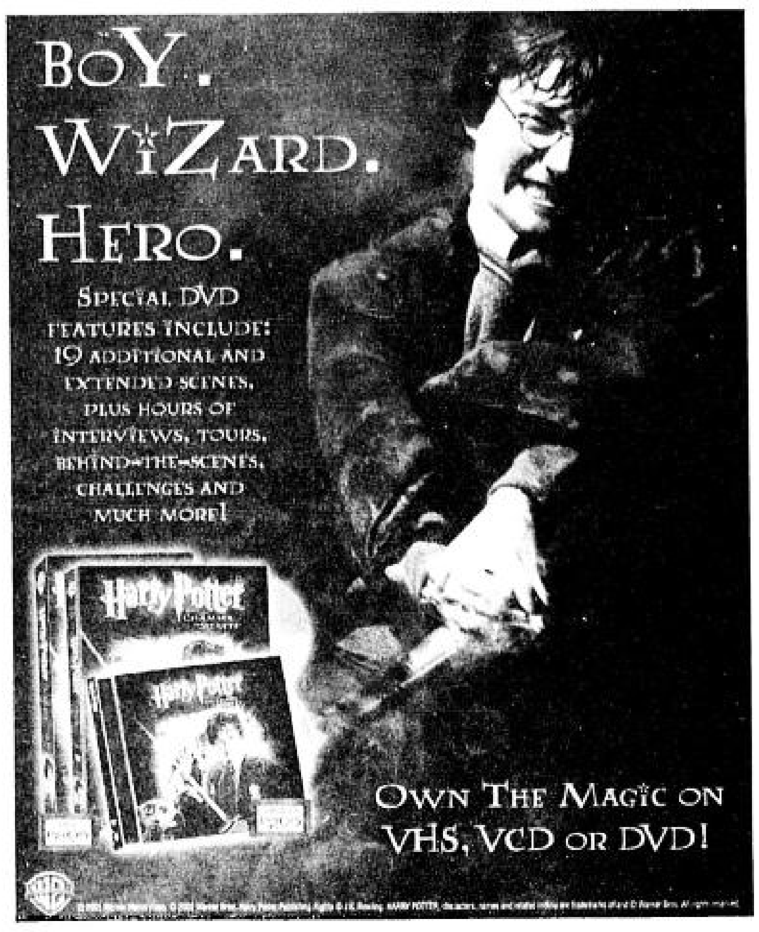
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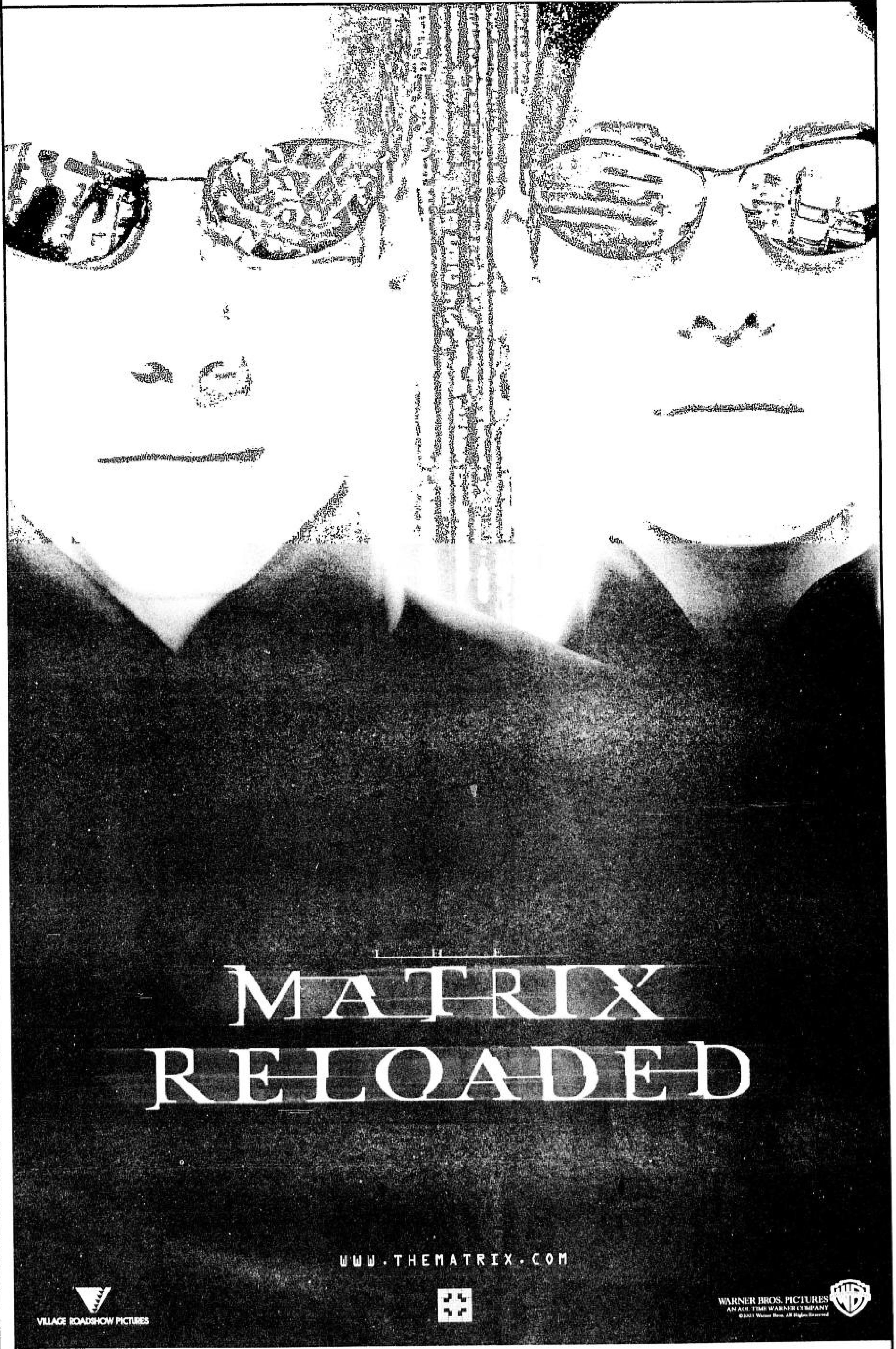
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Ali 2	WALANG KAPALIT
Ali 3	X-MEN 2
Ali 4	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 5	MATRIX RELOADED
Ali 6	THE HOURS
Ali 7	KIKAY
ARANETA COLISEUM	
MAY 17	NORA AUNOR CONCERT
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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KIKAY
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	PUNLA
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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A	WALANG KAPALIT
B	KIKAY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-70 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 10)
CINEMA-1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA-2	KIKAY
CINEMA-3	XEREX
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CONFESSION OF A DANGEROUS MIND
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA-6	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-7	DAYARAN
CINEMA-8	PINOCCHIO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	X-MEN 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE
CINEMA-12	THE HOURS
CINEMA-14	TILL THERE WAS YOU
CINEMA-15	WALANG KAPALIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	WALANG KAPALIT
CINEMA 2	JOHNNY ENGLISH
CINEMA 3	X-MEN 2
CINEMA 4	TILL THERE WAS YOU
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

B2K. Recently added DVD footage and extra tracks to their second album, "Pandemonium." AP

Record companies re-releasing relatively new CDs with new material

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Before rushing out to buy the latest disc from your favorite artist, you might want to wait for the "new and improved" version.

Movie soundtracks

Increasingly, record companies are re-releasing CDs—from movie soundtracks to rap—that have been out for only a few months with "bonus" material—remixed songs, new tunes, even DVD material.

"J.Lo," the second disc by Jennifer Lopez, was released in July 2001, but six months later, it was re-released to add a remixed version of the album track "I'm Real," with Ja Rule, which wasn't included in the original version but became a smash hit afterward.

B2K recently re-released their sophomore album, "Pandemonium," with DVD footage and extra tracks, including their latest hit, "Girlfriend," which isn't on the December-released original.

And Jay-Z's double-disc "Blueprint 2: The Gift & the Curse"—released in November—was repackaged last month as a single disc, with highlights from the two-CD album and bonus tracks.

Lagging sales

With the industry suffering from lagging sales and Internet piracy, labels say they need new ways to draw customers into stores.

"I think as our industry continues to change, we've been challenged by the consumer to be more creative," said Kevin Liles, president of Def Jam Records, home to Jay-Z and LL Cool J. "The consumer is saying, 'We want more,' and we want to give them more."

Danny Goldberg, president of independent label Artemis Records, sees the new trend as akin to the marketing of movie videos and DVDs.

"You might get a VHS of something, and then the next thing there is a DVD that has extra stuff on it or something like that," Goldberg said.

But Alayna Hill-Alderman, who owns two Record Archive stores in Rochester, New York, is among those who believe the new trend isn't fan-friendly.

Hill-Alderman says re-releasing new CDs punishes those who have purchased the original.

"I think it's a very dangerous trend," she said. "It's confusing to the consumer, it's confusing to the retailer."

Goldberg, however, doesn't think it's been a problem.

"I don't think there's a huge history of consumer complaints," he said.

Goal

Record industry executives say the goal isn't to force consumers to buy the same album twice, but to satisfy die-hard fans.

"(Some) fans want every ounce of information," said Ceci Kurzman, vice president of Epic Records' worldwide marketing. "This is really valuable for that consumer."

Kurzman was product manager of the "Chicago" soundtrack, released in January, which has been a surprise hit with more than one million copies sold. In March, Epic released a "limited edition" version of the original, with a bonus DVD containing behind-the-scenes footage of the Oscar-winning movie, archival material and other features.

"The idea was for people who wanted this extra content and people who were enormous fans of the film . . . (to have) an option to buy the soundtrack with this additional content," she said.

The re-release of an album can breathe new life—and sales—into it. In February, Def Jam rushed out a new version of LL Cool J's four-month-old "10" to include "All I Have," a song he did for Lopez's "This Is Me . . . Then" album that had become a huge hit. The week before the album's re-release, it sold about 11,000 copies; afterward, it sold 66,000.

Mary J. Blige's "No More Drama" was released in late August 2001. Although its first single was a hit, sales were modest. Five months later, the album was released again—with four additional songs and a new cover. The new version shot up the charts. *AP*

DELANEY. Arrested in January 2002. AP

Kim Delaney in rehabilitation program

NEW YORK—More than a year after she was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving, Kim Delaney has entered rehabilitation for alcohol addiction, her publicist said.

The actress went into an Arizona treatment program in late April, People magazine reported in its May 19 issue. It's unknown how long she'll stay.

Stressful year

"Due to a stressful year, Kim made the decision to enter a program at Sierra Tucson," said her spokeswoman, Robin Baum.

Delaney, 41, was arrested in January 2002 after she was seen driving erratically on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, California. She later pleaded no contest to reckless driving and was sentenced to probation and a safe-driving course.

Less integral

In November, Delaney was asked to leave the CBS television drama "CSI: Miami" after just 10 episodes because "the character of Megan Donner was becoming less integral to the series," the network said.

She won a best-supporting actress Emmy in 1997 for her portrayal of police Detective Diane Russell in "NYPD Blue." *AP*

Eminem . . .

From page C5

Thursday. "It's very disappointing. This could have been my best video ever."

Eminem parodies himself and other celebrities in some of his most famous videos, including "Without Me," where he depicts himself as a fat Elvis Presley.

But an Eminem spokesman said "Lose Yourself" was special to the rapper, who didn't want the song's serious tone undermined by Yankovic's humor.

Visual perception

"It's an important personal piece of music for him, a piece of art," spokesman Dennis Dennehy said Friday. "He doesn't mind him doing the song, (but) he didn't want to change kids' visual perception on what that image was. He wanted to make sure the image would remain intact."

EMINEM/ C7

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THE HOURS P13 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	MATRIX: RELOADED R13 12:40,3:30, 6:20,9:10	MATRIX: RELOADED R13 1:15,4:05, 6:55,9:45
MATRIX: RELOADED R13 11:30,2:20,5:10, 8:00,10:45	BRINGING DOWN THE HOUSE P13 12:55,3:20,5:45,8:10	MATRIX: RELOADED R13 12:05,2:55,5:45, 8:35,11:20

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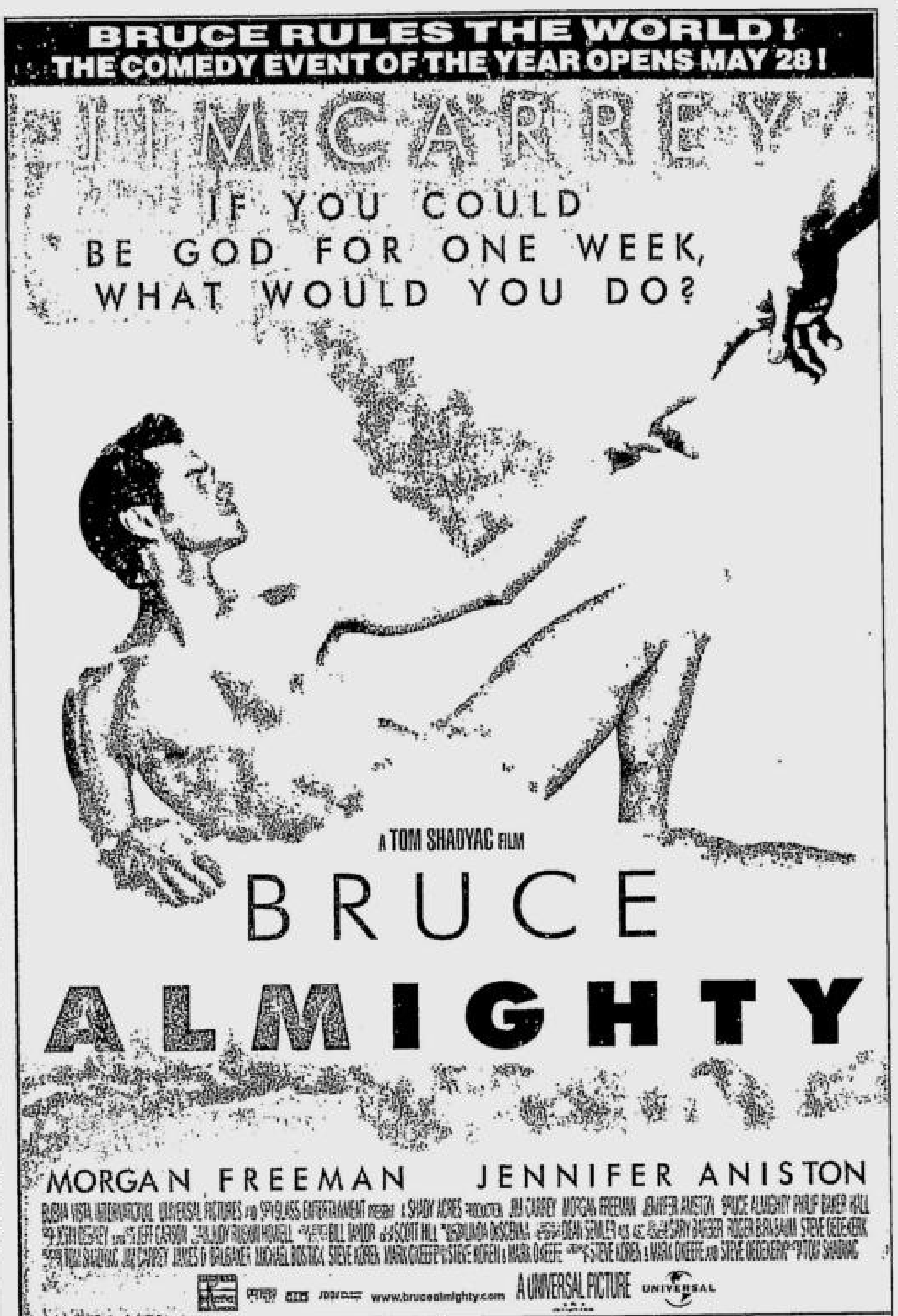

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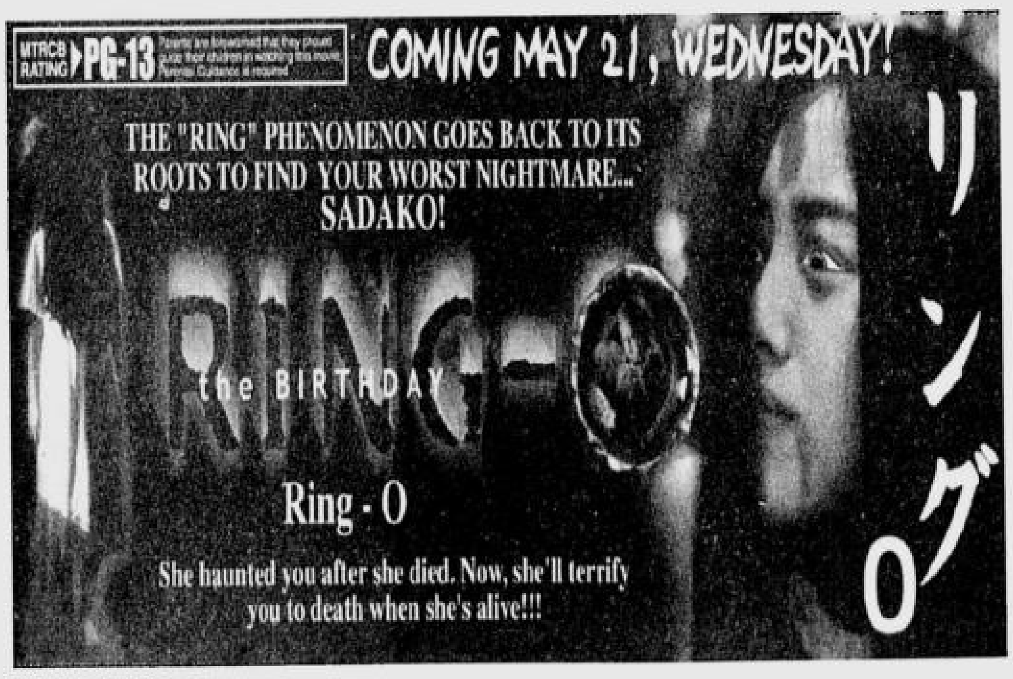
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OPENS MAY 21!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Christopher de Leon is still having fun

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S been nearly three decades since he first ignited the big screen with his portrayal of a carefree teenager whose encounters with the diverse characters in his small town one summer made him a sensitive grown-up in Lino Brocka's "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang."

More relaxed

"Now, I'm more relaxed," smiles Christopher de Leon, when asked how he's changed since his smashing debut. "I know I have more skills. Before it was only my instinct or common sense that was moving me to act. I'm now more serious about my work—but I'm still having fun."

From the very start of his career, Christopher considered himself an actor, and not just some upstart aiming for stardom. About four years ago, though, he realized that he was an entertainer, too.

"Because I also do shows abroad," he explains. "I sing, I direct, I produce *telesines*. But when people ask me, I tell them that I want to be called an actor."

And Christopher feels grateful to have worked with local cinema's best directors—Brocka, Gerry de Leon, Ishmael Bernal, Eddie Romero, Celso Ad. Castillo, Danny Zialcita, Laurice Guillen, Marilou Diaz-Abaya and Chito Roño.

100 films

He's starred in a hundred movies and remains a favorite leading man of top actresses (he reunites with Regine Velasquez in Viva Films' entry to the Manila Film Festival, "Pangarap Ko ang Ibigin Ka").

DE LEON. Regards himself as an actor, first and last.

He keeps video copies of his 10 favorite movies, plus some classic episodes of "Goin' Bananas" that feature the original 13 members of Bad Bananas. In the future, he hopes to build up an archive of choice Christopher de Leon starrers.

"The best acting technique is to study the material well," he shares. "There are times *naman* when you have to improvise."

Christopher used to take his movie roles home. "It wasn't healthy," he shakes his head. "*Nawawalan ka ng sariling* identity. *Kailangan talaga matuto* to put your tool back into the tool box, so to speak. But it takes practice to achieve that."

And it doesn't help that he makes it a point to put a little of his personality into the character he's playing. Julian Bartolome in the film "Dekada '70" and Lemuel Verder on the soap "Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw" are different from Christopher in real life, but the actor finds his connection to them in being a father. He has four sons (Ian, 26, Rafael, 19, Miguel, 17, and Gabriel, 13).

Childlike

"I'm childlike when it comes to my kids," he grins. "I talk about silly things. We get serious once in a while, like when we talk about life, *pero tawanan pa rin kami nang tawanan.*"

"But," he points out, "I also believe in the saying, 'Spare the rod and spoil the child.' '*Pag mali sila, mali talaga*. Before, *may pagka*-military *ang pag-disiplina ko sa kanila. Pero nakita ko na* it didn't work.

"*Walang kaso sa akin kung iba ang gusto ng mga anak ko, katulad ng* course *sa* college. *Hindi ko ipipilit na mag*-engineering *sila. Noong araw kasi: Ikaw, mag*-business management *ka! Nag*-business management ako, *lahat ng* subjects *binagsak ko! Ang gusto ko, mag*-Fine Arts."

Christopher feels lucky that he's got wonderful kids, who are respectful and obedient. He is, in turn, honest with them, sharing even his "dark" experiences.

"The wisdom that I've gained comes in when I talk to them about what is right and wrong," he intones. "I make it a point to tell them *na*, in a particular situation, *ganito ang mangyayari sa inyo, kasi na*-experience *ko na*. I know what you feel."

EasyCinema finally gets some films

LONDON—A ground-breaking British budget cinema chain launched by the founder of low-cost airline easyJet announced Friday last week that it had finally acquired some films to show—just a fortnight before it first opens.

EasyCinema, which aims to sell tickets to its no-frills cinemas for as little as 20 pence (0.28 euros, 0.32 dollars), has been locked in a bitter battle with film distributors over how it wants to pay for titles.

Rather than splitting ticket sales with distributors, easyCinema wants to pay a fixed fee for rights to show first-run movies over a fixed period, a proposal thus far rejected by the film majors.

Legal action

EasyCinema founder Stelios Haji-Ioannou, who set up easyJet in 1995 and built it up into Europe's biggest budget airline, has vowed to take legal action against the distribution firms unless they allow him access.

The deadlock, and subsequent lack of any films, has been threatening to derail the debut of easyCinema's first outlet in Milton Keynes, just north of London, which is due to open its doors on May 23.

However the firm announced that it had reached a deal with the British arm of French distributors Pathe to show four releases.

While not the latest Hollywood blockbusters, these include titles such as as recently-released US martial arts picture "Bulletproof Monk" and new British 1930s-based weepie "The Heart of Me." Haji-Ioannou professed himself "delighted," but promised to push ahead in his battle with other distributors.

Deadlock

"The situation with the top six UK distributors representing more than 90 percent of the market is still in a deadlock," he said.

"I have instructed my lawyers to discuss this issue with the Office of Fair Trading." EasyCinema aims to make its money by drawing the public in with rock-bottom prices during off-peak hours, when traditional cinemas are often almost empty, also giving the biggest discounts to tickets bought long in advance.

To cut costs, all booking is done via the Internet and the pared-down cinemas have a skeleton staff and no popcorn stalls. *AFP*

Eminem . . .

From page C6

Artists who have allowed Yankovic to parody their songs and videos over the years include Michael Jackson—whose hits "Beat It," and "I'm Bad," became "Eat It," and "I'm Fat"—and Madonna, whose "Like a Virgin," became "Like A Surgeon."

Yankovic said the rapper allowed Yankovic to redo the theme song from the hit movie "8 Mile," but said he would need to hear the final mix before granting the video rights. After receiving the final version of the parody—which pokes fun at television addicts—the rapper's representatives said he would not allow a video.

"We started preproduction on (the video) already, because we just assumed that there wouldn't a problem," Yankovic said.

First cut

Yankovic said Eminem also refused to allow him to release the song as a commercial single. It's the first cut on his 11th album, "Poodle Hat," which also parodies songs by Avril Lavigne and rapper Nelly. It's due out May 20 on Way Moby/Volcano Records.

Although Yankovic says he's grateful to Eminem for allowing him to parody his song, he's still lamenting what would have been his "most ambitious" video ever—heady words, coming from a man who dressed up like Jackson in a fat suit for the video "I'm Fat."

"You'll just have to listen to the song and close your eyes and imagine what might have been," chuckled Yankovic. *AP*

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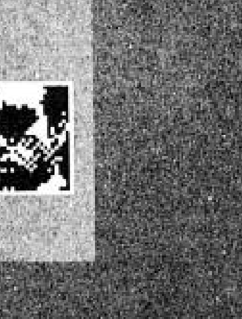

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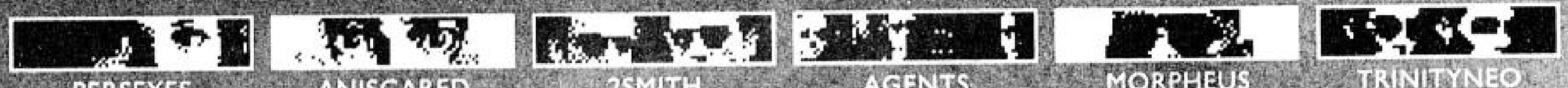

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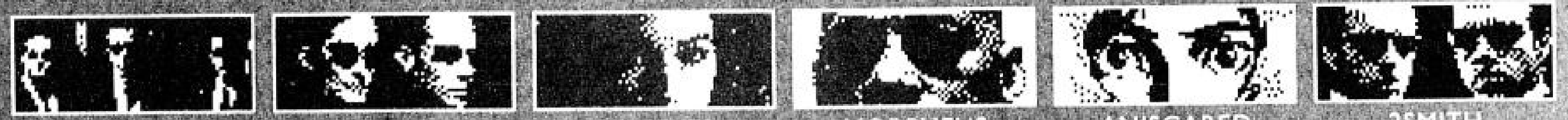

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‘Hairspray,’ ‘Movin’ Out,’ ‘Nine,’ top 2003 Tony nominations

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—It’s “Hairspray”—by a head. As expected, the Broadway season’s biggest hit received the most 2003 Tony Award nominations—13—including a nod for best musical.

All-dance celebration

Close behind with 10 nominations is “Movin’ Out,” Twyla Tharp’s all-dance celebration of Billy Joel’s music. Completing the competition for the top musical prize: a sweet-tempered children’s tale called “A Year With Frog and Toad” and “Amour,” a quick flop about a Parisian who could walk through walls.

In a season buffeted by a slumping economy, severe winter weather and the US-led war against Iraq, “Hairspray,” based on John Waters’ campy film about a chubby teenager’s road to rock ‘n’ roll redemption, proved to be the most popular new attraction.

Also demonstrating box-office strength—and getting seven Tony nominations—was a potent revival of Eugene O’Neill’s family drama, “Long Day’s Journey Into Night.” Its four leading actors—Brian Dennehy, Vanessa Redgrave, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Robert Sean Leonard—all were nominated. So was its director, Robert Falls.

Redgrave, who portrays the drug-addled Mary Tyrone, is favored to win the best-actress Tony in an exceptionally strong category that includes Fiona Shaw as the avenging title character in “Medea”; Victoria Hamilton, the mother of a brain-damaged child in “A Day in the Death of Joe Egg”; Clare Higgins, the sympathetic landlady in “Vincent in Brixton”; and Jayne Atkinson, a wide-eyed English tourist visiting Italy in “Enchanted April.”

MELANIE Griffith (right), and last year’s Tony Award winner for Best Actor in a Musical John Lithgow announce the 2003 Tony nominees .

GETTY IMAGES

Best-play contender

“Enchanted April” is also a best-play contender, squaring off against “Take Me Out,” Richard Greenberg’s drama about a gay baseball player; “Say Goodnight Gracie,” a one-man show about comedian George Burns; and “Vincent in Brixton,” Nicholas Wright’s fictional account of young Vincent van Gogh’s stay in London.

Revivals could provide the Tonys with its most spirited competition. Besides “Long Day’s Journey,” the play-revival category includes “A Day in the Death of Joe Egg,” “Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune” and the 1930s Kaufman and Hart comedy, “Dinner at Eight.”

The musical-revival category is even more intense. “Nine,” which won a best-musical Tony its first time up in 1982, received eight nominations, including nods for its star, Antonio Banderas and three of its actresses, Jane Krakowski, Mary Stuart Masterson and Chita Rivera.

It faces Baz Luhrmann’s inventive reworking of Puccini’s “La Boheme”; “Man of La Mancha” with Brian Stokes Mitchell as the deluded Don Quixote; and “Gypsy,” starring Bernadette Peters as that show-biz dynamo, Mama Rose.

“Gypsy” went prizeless at the 1960 Tonys, but Angela Lansbury won in a 1975 revival and the show and its star, Tyne Daly, won in a 1990 revival.

Buoyant young star

This time around, Peters goes up against Melissa Errico, “Amour”; Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, “Man of La Mancha”; Elizabeth Parkinson, “Movin’ Out”; and Marissa Jaret Winokur, the buoyant young star of “Hairspray.”

Besides Dennehy, leading actor nominations in a play include Brian Bedford for “Tartuffe,” Eddie Izzard for “A Day in the Death of Joe Egg,” Stanley Tucci for “Frankie and Johnny” and Paul Newman, who returned to Broadway for the first time in nearly 40 years as the stage manager in a revival of Thornton Wilder’s “Our Town.”

Banderas’ main competition is Harvey Fierstein, who plays the full-figured Edna Turnblad in “Hairspray.” Mitchell, “Man of La Mancha,” Malcolm Gets from “Amour” and John Selya, “Movin’ Out,” complete the field.

The nominations—or lack of nominations—produced its first casualty, too. “Urban Cowboy,” which has been struggling at the box office since it opened in late March, announced Monday it would close at the end of the week. The show didn’t get a coveted best-musical nod, although it did nab nominations for choreography (Melinda Roy) and for its country-flavored score, cobbled together from the work of 30 songwriters. *AP*

TONY Award nominees, from left: Jane Krakowski, Mary Stuart Masterson, Antonio Banderas and Chita Rivera, stars of the Broadway musical "Nine." The Tonys are to be presented in New York on June 8.

AP

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Alternative film formats get viewers' nod

By Nestor U. Torre

ALTERNATIVE film formats are clicking with viewers these days, a good sign that movie markets are expanding and diversifying.

This is welcome news for both moviegoers and filmmakers alike, because they now have more film options available to them. The more, the merrier!

New cartoon features

The first film format to become popular again after decades of relative inactivity is the full-length animated feature. Hits like "The Lion King," "Shrek" and "Monsters, Inc." have led to the production of many new cartoon features in the past couple of years.

The field has become so busy that the Oscars now have a separate category for animated features, and more studios are now hot on the heels of pacesetters like the Disney and DreamWorks companies, after having set up their own animation houses.

The latest to form its animation division is Sony Pictures. After a year of hectic activity, it is ready to unveil five new animated features in the coming months:

In "Open Season," wild animals turn the tables on the hunters who are after them. "Tam Lin" is inspired by a Celtic folk ballad.

World of surfing

In "Cloudy with A Chance of Meatballs," food falls from the sky in a weird fantasy land. "Surf's Up!" is a Romeo and Juliet story set in the world of surfing. And "The ChubbChubbs" is a full-length version of an award-winning short film previously produced by Sony.

Some of these projects could turn out to be hits that will add further excitement and energy to the already vigorous animation scene.

Of course, quite a number of new cartoon features do poorly at the tills, leading to the closure of some movie companies' animated divisions. But enough projects do well with viewers to keep the continuing development of animated features on an upward trajectory.

Impressive surge

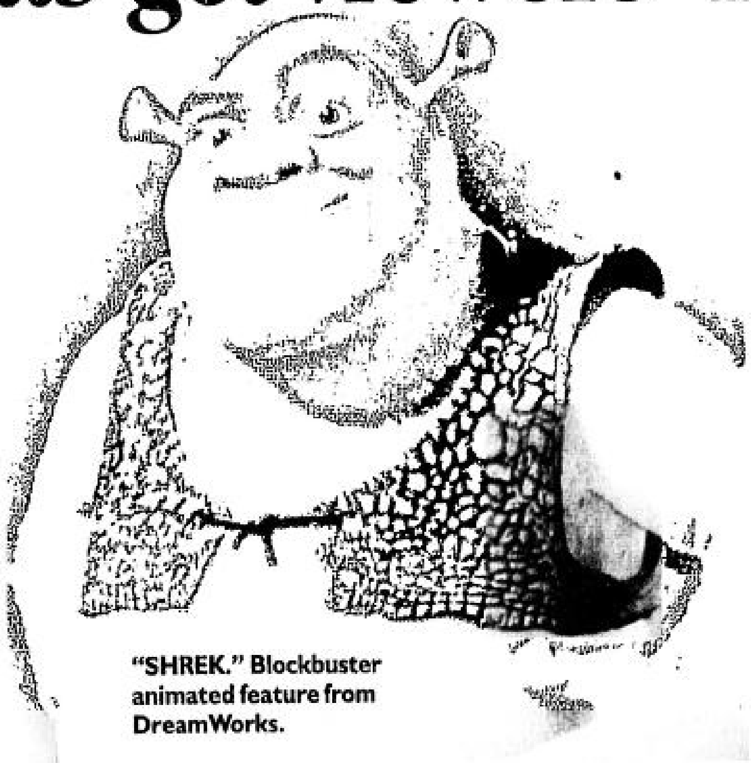
After animation, the next film format to experience an impressive surge in the new millennium is the movie musical. Its current comeback was triggered by "Moulin Rouge" and further boosted by "Chicago," and half a dozen new musicals are in various stages of production this year.

This is an exciting development because the musical film is able to come up with larger-than-life entertainment that invigorates the show biz scene with special energy and scope.

In fact, veteran film buffs' movie memories include such unforgettable singing-and-dancing productions like "On the Town," " An American in Paris," "Singin' in the Rain," "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers," "West Side Story," "Oliver!" and "Cabaret."

Thus, it was a great pity when, in the '80s,

ALTERNATIVE/ D3



"SHREK." Blockbuster animated feature from DreamWorks.

"CHICAGO." Boosted the renewed popularity of film musicals.

Don't ridicule efforts to prevent spread of SARS

Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A FRIEND of mine attended an international conference few weeks ago in Malaysia. While attending meetings, he wore a mask and declined to shake hands with other participants.

Offended

After a while, he noticed that some people were offended by his actions. He explained, "Please forgive me. This is not a sign of my rejecting your friendship. I have come from travels and I am simply concerned about your health as well as mine. This is a precaution on my part to keep a deadly disease from spreading. This is for your protection as well as mine."

After his explanation, the people appreciated his actions.

Here in Manila, a mother advised her teenage daughters to wear masks while commuting via public transportation. A daughter reported to her that some people ridiculed her by coughing into her face and taunting, "Are you afraid of SARS?"

It is difficult to live in this world. People are constantly putting down efforts to establish precautions or effect change in ourselves and society. In Baguio, for example, my friend taught her students to wear masks everytime they had a cold or cough. Some parents protested, but the teacher insisted on the practice. Soon, her students got the habit and the teacher was able to lower the rate of cold infections in her class.

Used tissue paper

With SARS, she said, her students easily adopt strict hygiene standards. She has already trained them to dispose of used tissue paper, how to cough or sneeze into tissue instead of their hands, and how to avoid touching handrails or spitting anywhere.

It is not only the SARS issue that should concern us. When I was once asked to report on the status of tuberculosis infection in the Philippines, my friends in the United States had to call me up to verify the figures.

They said, "Other countries have ratios of only one in 1,000 or one in 100. Are you sure that the ratio in the Philippines is one in 10?" I did not make any mistake, I assured them.

New maid

A friend of mine had two children who were infected by a new maid who had tuberculosis. The young boys developed primary complex and had to take medications for six months. Of course, the maid had to go home due to her sick condition.

This friend adopted the practice of screening her household staff for contagious diseases, including parasites, hepatitis B and C, and especially TB. When she was screening for a driver, on two, she discovered that some applicants had TB. They showed no symptoms of coughing or weakness. They appeared physically normal, but X-rays showed otherwise.

Had my friend not learned from her first mistake, her children could have been exposed over and over again to the contagious disease.

Let us not ridicule those who attempt to do their part in avoiding the spread of a disease. Let us respect their efforts and do whatever we can to help others avoid becoming sick.

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Nora Aunor celebrates 50th birthday with special show at Araneta Coliseum

AUNOR. Has set new challenges for herself this year.

By Edmund L. Sicam

THE ONE and only Superstar is turning 50 this month. *"Ayaw nilang maniwala! Pati nga ako, di makapaniwala!"* says Ate Guy of her upcoming birthday.

She says that she doesn't feel like 50 at all, *"Di pa nga 30, e! Mas bata pa nga roon!"* But Nora says that age is not really what's important. *"Pinaka-importante, di ka tumitigil sa pag-eksperimento sa trabaho mo. Kung ano'ng nararamdaman ng puso.—Umiibig pa rin ako!"*

Experimentation

"Habang nandito ka, kailangan huwag kang tumigil, mag-eksperimento ka ng mga bagay na bago, para maipapakita mo sa mga tao na puwede ka palang makaisip ng mas higit pa doon sa mga nagawa mo," says Nora.

This year, she is dipping her fingers into ventures that she has never tried before. First, there is her *teleserye*, "Bituin," which is airing its final episode on May 22. Nora says she had never acted in a soap opera, but she has enjoyed it very much.

Although it was doing well ratings-wise, the network decided to end the show. Still, *"masaya ako dahil siguro tama lang yung takbo ng teleserye. Hindi siya mawawala na napagsawaan na ng mga tao,"* she observes.

Nora explains that she had originally signed on only for six months. Then it got extended to eight months, until they really had to end it because she had other commitments.

After doing a daily show for eight months, Nora does feel some sadness: *"Malungkot din ako dahil ang saya-saya namin sa set. May mga konting pagtatalo, pero natural lang naman iyon."*

What makes the group of "Bituin" proud of the *teleserye* is that it was different from other soap operas.

Ricky Lee explains: "With 'Bituin,' *na*-prove *namin na puwede kang magkaroon ng* soap *na di gumagamit ng formulang walang katapusang paghihiganti, patayan at kasamaan. Puwede rin yung mababaw lang na buhay ng tao, hindi masyadong* dramatic *na* dramatic. *Puwede ka rin naman mag*-rate. I think, *malaking* factor *din na si* Guy *nandoon. Tinitingnan ng tao, ano ba'ng gagawin ni* Guy?"

Reunion

Second, to celebrate her 50th birthday, Nora holds a special concert, "Gold," tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ricky reveals that the concert will be used as part of the final episode of "Bituin." *"Kaya may* portion *yung* concert *na magiging* in character *siya. Bulag siya bigla!"*

Another new project for Nora is the staging of the musical version of "Himala" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines this October. It will be a sung-through musical, with Ricky doing the libretto, and the music is by several composers led by Lutgardo Labad.

Nora is very excited about this new project: *"Ang naakakatuwa dito, di ba ang masa, hindi masyadong nakakapunta sa CCP, kasi ang akala nila puro mga mayayaman ang mga nakakapunta doon? So siguro ito na ang puwedeng makapagbukas ng* trend *para sa mga masa na pumunta doon."*

Triumph

Looking back at her 50 years of life, Nora pinpoints her triumph in the "Tawag ng Tanghalan" competition as one of the proudest moments of her life. She says that, when she won, she never thought that she would reach the heights she has attained now. *"Basta't ang talagang gusto ko lang mangyari, makatulong ako sa pamilya nang mai-ahon sila sa kahirapan."*

"Ang acting, (natuto ako) siguro sa mga nangyari sa akin!" Nora says, laughing *"Ang mga problema daw, nakakadagdag! At pagkakaroon na rin ng kaisipan na kailangan huwag kang hihinto sa ganoon lang."*

The Superstar says that if she could turn back the hands of time, she would change some of the things that happened in her life. *"Siguro . . . maraming maling mga desisyon! Pero marami din naman akong natutunan. Noong una, (mga desisyon galing) sa puso, pero noong bandang huli, talagang mali lang ang pag*-analyze *ng* situation."

One desire she holds in her heart is for her family to be together again. What about her much-awaited comeback to the big screen? Nora has received many offers but she's very choosy about her comeback vehicle. She says it has to be different from films she's done in the past.

Noranians are hoping they don't have to wait much longer for their idol to return to the silver screen!

Alternative . . .

From page D2

jaded moviegoers began to find musicals unreal and rejected them out of hand, resulting in two decades of relative inactivity.

Renewed popularity

Happily, viewers appear to have regained their sense of wonderment and love for musical storytelling, thus this second spring currently being enjoyed by the film musical format. May its renewed popularity increase!

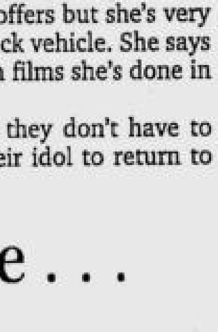
Other alternative film formats we would like to become popular in the next few years include digital features, imaginative and inspiring movies for children, religious productions, and short films that can be screened in mainstream theaters during intermission.

May these formats turn out to be as successful as animated features and musical films have become in the last five years!

Sandra Bullock wins temporary restraining order

LOS ANGELES—Sandra Bullock has won a temporary restraining order against a man she claims has stalked and harassed her around the United States for a year.

Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Scott Gordon issued an order requiring Thomas James Weldon, 34, of Los Angeles, to stay 200 yards away from the actress. A June 6 hearing was set on a request for a permanent order.



BULLOCK. Seeks protection against stalker.

Complaint

Bullock, 38, said in a 57-page complaint that Weldon has sent her e-mails and faxes and left messages with her and her family "indicating he wants to have a relationship with her." She also claimed Weldon has "admitted a serious psychological disorder (paranoid schizophrenia), for which he refuses to take medication," according to the complaint.

Bullock's complaint alleges Weldon moved to Austin, Texas, "solely to meet" the star of films such as "While You Were Sleeping," "Two Weeks Notice," "Miss Congeniality" and "Speed."

AFP

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SATURDAY *Special*

AUNOR. Uphill fight to reclaim lost glory.

Nora Aunor goes for show biz gold

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE been invited to a number of functions, both in and out of town today, but have opted to beg off from all of them, because we have a special date with superstar Nora Aunor tonight—"Gold," her 50th birthday celebration at the Araneta Coliseum. We hope you too will make a special effort to attend the concert.

Nora herself prefers to call it a "reunion" with her fans, who have been loyally supporting her many show biz endeavors since the '60s. Fact is, her fans truly deserve her gratitude for their steadfastness, since there've been times in the course of her long, colorful and even turbulent career when she's taken them for granted.

Romance

Those were the times when, even she admits, she paid more attention to romance and vices than to giving her loyal fans the best entertainment possible.

But she promises that those days are over, she's learned her lessons, and she is now focused on pushing her career to new heights, and further developing herself as a performer.

That'll take some doing, since Nora has top-billed some of the best movies ever made by the demanding likes of Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal. And yet the superstar is determined to act in even more challenging film projects in the next few years.

She knows, of course, that now that she's turning 50 years old, it'll be an uphill fight to reclaim her lost glory, not to mention topping her past achievements.

Biggest challenge

Her biggest challenge now is to get young audiences excited about her and her talent, despite her being old enough to be their mother. How does she propose to do that? She can't do it by acting young— that would be silly! But there's something about her unique looks and talent that in the past has captivated several genera-

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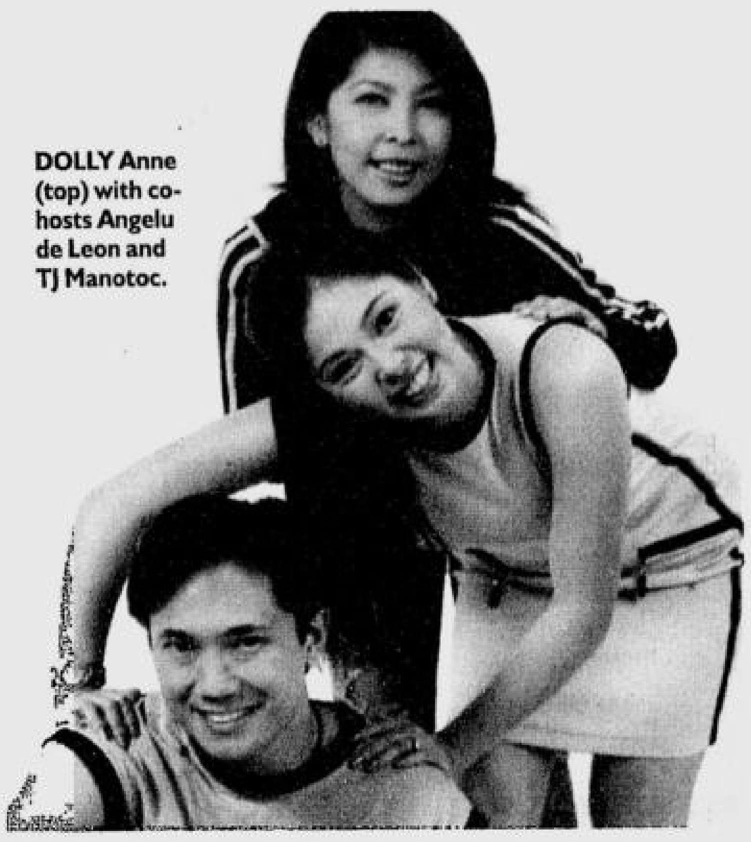

DOLLY Anne (top) with co-hosts Angelu de Leon and TJ Manotoc.

So you want to become a TV star

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I'm so happy for your sister Dolly Anne. Last week, I went to the Hard Rock Café at Glorietta for the taping of the maiden telecast of "CelebrityDATcom." Of course, you know that this is the show on IBC-13 premiering on Thursday, May 22, 9:30-10:30 p.m., that Dolly Anne hosts together with Angelu de Leon and TJ Manotoc

Anxiety

A poignant feeling of déjà vu washed over me as I saw the dynamic tension of the staff running around like headless chickens, the nervous smiles of the hosts pretending to be gay and nonchalant but actually bursting with feverish anxiety and agitation, the stress of guest coordinators over guests who hadn't made their dramatic (read: late) entrance yet, the worried look of producers who couldn't mask their concern over the million and one questions screaming for answers in their minds.

I loved it! If I were a fish, that would be my water. For most of my life, I thrived in that atmosphere. It was the air I breathed, the blood that raced through my veins. It was my life!

It still is. For, even though my first love shall always be radio, TV work has come to define me.

Footsteps

And now, there I was, watching my very own daughter, your sister Dolly Anne, retracing my footsteps with her very own, purposeful strides. I gazed at her from a distance: She was cool and poised. Her laughter tinkled with nervous mirth but the joy in her eyes was clear. And real. And my heart stopped beating for a moment there.

Then, my mind wandered for a while. It brought me back to when I actually envisioned Dolly working in the French embassy, speaking the language like a native and enthralling diplomats and heads of state alike with her grace and elan.

I wanted her to take up a more useful course in college—like Law or Management or Medicine—but it was she who insisted on Linguistics. She graduated cum laude, so what could I say? You see, ever since your *lolo* Nich brought her and your cousin Kara to Europe, Dolly fell head over heels in love with everything French—the language, the outdoor cafes, the impressionist painters, and the monsieurs, of course.

All the while, I really thought she had a future in Paris or anywhere connected to anything Francaise. I had no inkling whatsoever that she had this fledgling dream to grow up like her mother.

Ashamed

Did you know that there was actually a time in her life that she felt ashamed of the incontrovertible fact that her mom was Inday Badiday? Well, I could only be sorry for her—all her classmates were so *sosyal* and her mom somehow managed to personify everything *baduy*, so what was she to do?

I remember, whenever I had the chance to bring her to school myself, she'd ask me to hide in the car so her classmates wouldn't see me. Otherwise, she said, her whole day would be ruined with the word *"bakya"* echoing everywhere she went.

The first time I saw that Dolly has this penchant for hosting, I was secretly thrilled and produced "Channel S" for her. Every opportunity I got, I helped her. I showed her the ropes, so to speak. And when the offer to host "CelebrityDATcom" came, I was genuinely happy for her. It was something that she got purely on her own merits. I'm not the producer, I didn't call anyone to pitch for her, and I have nothing to do with the show, except to grace its maiden offering.

Cocoon

My dear Clara, I'm so proud of your sister. You know how checkered my relationship with her has been these past years—and I admit that the most bitter tears I've shed have been for her. But, that night, as I saw her trying her best to carve her own niche, I witnessed a caterpillar triumphantly shedding off its cocoon for it to be able to fly.

And fly gloriously, Dolly did! I saw that the show had areas for improvement, and Dolly did slip here and there—but I hereby pronounce it as a huge success! Here's why:

One, "CelebrityDATcom" joins the show biz firmament at a time when show biz-oriented talk shows are a dime a dozen. When I started, I was all alone and I didn't have to worry about competition. When I committed a mistake, it was easier to get up and move on because I had no rivals to pull me down, or to cheer my defeat.

Two, there was no such thing as the battle of the networks. Unlike now when only two channels are lording it over the TV world—with the best shows and the biggest stars and the fattest talent fees. This leaves little room for other networks—who have no choice but to "borrow" the stars of the giants and live by the rules that they put up to protect their interests.

In other words, that "CelebrityDATcom" is being launched at all is already a colossal victory. And every episode it mounts will be a triumph, for which I vigorously congratulate Dolly and everybody else in the show.

Network

Some tips for your sister, if I may: First, she should do her own research. I'm sure that the show's staff is efficient, but she should be able to check with her own sources to verify the news fed to her. She must start cultivating her own network of people who matter and those who don't. You just don't know when the latter can be useful to you.

Second, she must develop her people, value them, trust them, and invest in them. Make them not just her friends but also her hands, her feet, her eyes, her nose, her lips—and stand up for them. She may not immediately reap the rewards of her efforts, but they will come when she needs them most.

News

Third, she must find her own news. Better yet, she should be able to create the news right in her own show. This way, people will talk about what happened there, not what her show said happened somewhere else.

But then, she must remember to always be fair. She cannot afford to sacrifice her integrity and fairness at the altar of scoops and exclusives. They're good only for a cou-

SO YOU WANT/ E3

53 years later, Lollobrigida is back at Cannes

By Marie-Therese Delboulbes

CANNES, France—Italy's Gina Lollobrigida returns to the Cannes film festival this week for the premiere of a 2003 remake of the film that propelled her to stardom more than half a century ago.

LOLLOBRIGIDA. Co-starred with Gerard Philipe in the original production of "Fanfan La Tulipe" (1952).

French movie

The Italian star, now 75 and living a life away from movies, will return to the glitz and glamour of Cannes when the festival premieres the swash-buckling French movie "Fanfan la Tulipe."

The film, she said in a telephone interview, "was the beginning of my international career." Directed by Gerard Krawczyk, the 2003 version is a remake of the 1952 film that scooped a prize for Best Screenplay at Cannes that year, starring Lollobrigida alongside late French heartthrob Gerard Philipe.

"Fanfan la Tulipe" II, which stars France's Vincent Perez and rising Spanish star Penelope Cruz, is not in line for a prize, however, as it is being screened out of competition.

The original, Lollobrigida said, was "a jewel of French cinema." "It is a great homage to me that there has been a remake. It means that 'Fanfan' really left its mark on the public."

Special homage

With Monica Bellucci acting as master of ceremonies at this year's festival and a special homage to Federico Fellini, Italian cinema is very much the flavor of the year. *AFP*

Nora . . .

From page E1

tions of fans, and she can do it again.

Musical-theater project

Take her musical-theater project for 2003, the stage version of her film "Himala." It's so unexpected that it is an exciting prospect that should attract SRO audiences when it starts its run at the CCP this August. Yes, even at age 50, Nora Aunor still has what it takes to energize and even jolt the local performing scene.

The key question for both "Gold" and "Himala" is: Will Nora be in good voice? The last time we caught her in a special concert at the Big Dome, her voice sometimes cracked, and she was made to sing some numbers in a jazzy style that she wasn't comfortable with.

We trust that she'll fare much better in her "reunion" show tonight, and that "Gold" will enjoy the enthusiastic patronage, not just of her original diehard followers, but also of new legions of at least curious and hopefully even avid fans.

Tisoy syndrome

We further hope that tonight's concert will help people rediscover Nora Aunor and everything that she stood for in the '60s and '70s: practically single-handedly, she went against the *tisoy* syndrome in local screen stardom, proved that dusky entertainers had a place on the local silver screen, and gave millions of Filipinos someone who looked like them to empathize with more fully in her movies and TV shows.

Those are major achievements that add to the significance of her contributions to the world of entertainment. Sure, she may have squandered much of the rewards that her grateful fans bestowed on her—but, when push comes to shove, her talent remains, and that's what she so passionately wants to share with her audience tonight. Be there . . .

So you want to . . .

From page E2

ple of shows, while her program must survive longer than that.

Fourth, she does not need to look to her competitors for direction and guidance. They will only distract her from giving her best. At the start, her best may not be good enough if compared with what others do. But this should not deter her because it will only make her miss out on the joy that comes from savoring the fruits of her labors.

What she needs is to master the art of giving her best always—until the time comes when her best is the best there can ever be.

Shadow

Fifth, she should not wait to outlive me before she outgrows me. She should get out from under my shadow now. One time, Dolly told me that she could never be as good as me. But that's not the point. The measure of her success will never be me, it will always be her. She should never try to be me—not because I'm better than her, but because we are two different individuals.

Lastly, she should enjoy the show while it's there. If she doesn't enjoy what she's doing, it will show and people will know. The moment she ceases to enjoy it is the time for her to stop what's she's doing—and, perhaps, just go to the French embassy and work there?

Yes, Clara. I still haven't stopped dreaming that for Dolly!

Michael V's secrets

Tomorrow, watch the inimitably funny Michael V. on "Inday, Heart to Heart" as we try to unravel the secrets of why and how he makes us laugh.

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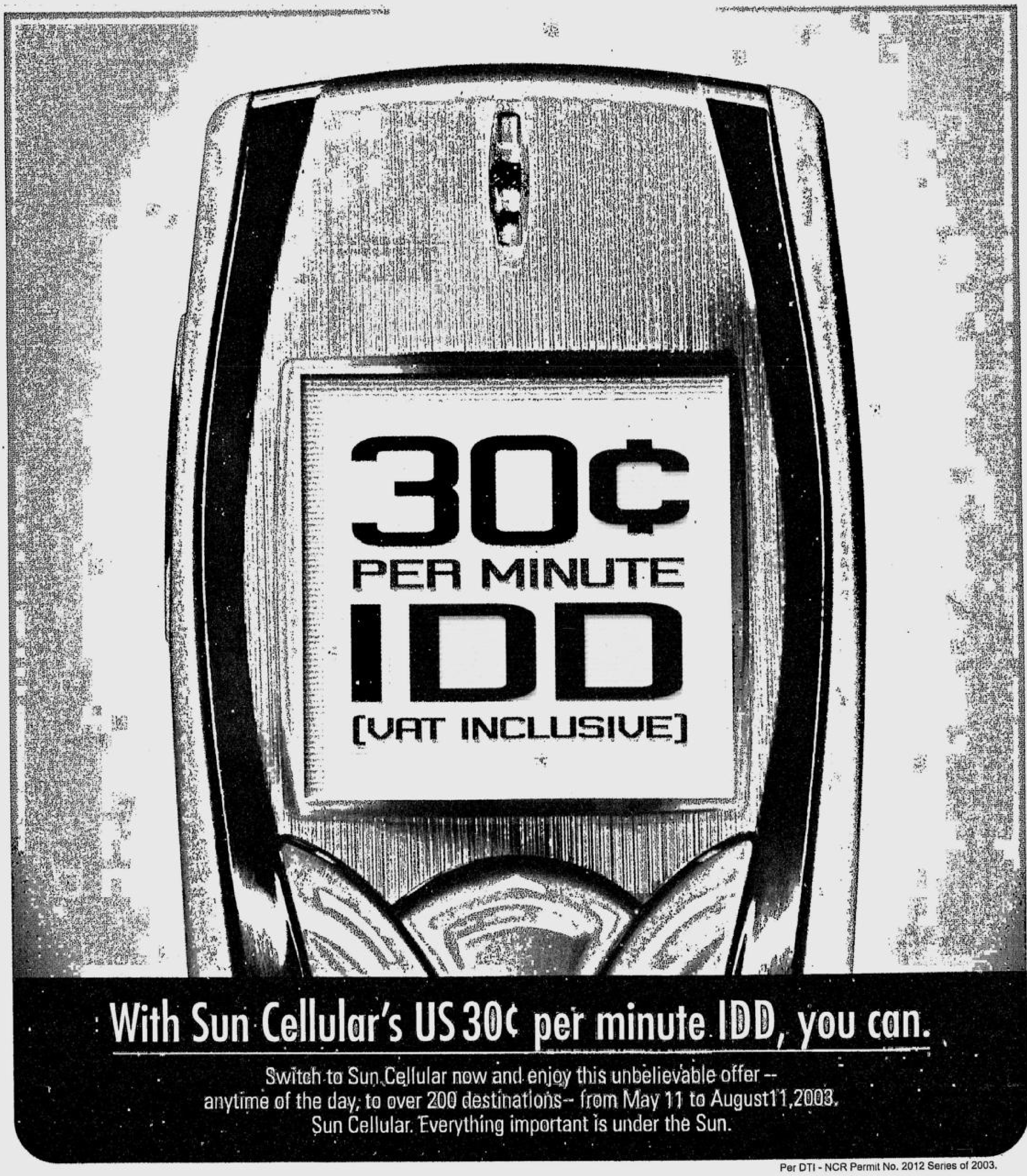

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SATURDAY *Special*

ROMAN Polanski's "The Pianist," with Adrien Brody in the title role, got top marks in various festivals and competitions.

This year's winners and losers in various filmfests

By Claire Rosemberg

CANNES—As the world's premier film festival unreels, movie buffs are chalking up the winners and losers of the awards and festivals organized across the globe since the 2002 edition of Cannes:

Comeback

The past 12 months notably marked the comeback of the musical, with a bevy of plaudits for "Chicago," which danced off with the coveted Oscar for Best Film in March along with five other Academy Awards, the best showing for a musical since "Oliver!" in 1969.

But top credits on the worldwide film circuit over the past year appear to have gone to a less cheery movie, the film revisiting the Nazi horrors of World War II—Roman Polanski's "The Pianist." Significantly, the film featuring Adrien Brody as the young Polish Jew in the title role—for which he was awarded the Oscar for Best Actor, the youngest beneficiary ever of the prize—had won the top Cannes award, the "Palme d'Or" for Best Film, in May 2002.

Cannes has more of an arthouse touch than the run-of-the-mill Oscars line-up of Hollywood money-spinners. But as top showcase for international film, it often serves to launch features that go on to box-office success and Oscars honors.

Refugee from justice

Thus Polanski, who was all but blacklisted in the United States as a refugee from justice, went on after Cannes to win the Oscar for Best Director.

"The Pianist" picked up eight other international prizes, including in Poland where the action takes place. And in Britain last February it continued a sweep of world honors by being named Best Film at the annual Bafta awards.

Bafta, unlike the Oscars jury the following month, named Catherine Zeta-Jones the year's Best Actress for her role in "Chicago." At the Oscars Zeta-Jones got the runner-up prize as Best Supporting Actress, with Nicole Kidman winning Oscar for Best Actress for her role as Virginia Woolf in "The Hours." "The Hours," in which Kidman was given a fake nose to play the depressive writer, was another of the year's big winners, taking home the Berlin film festival's second prize Silver Bear for best actresses—for Kidman, Julianne Moore and Meryl Streep—last February.

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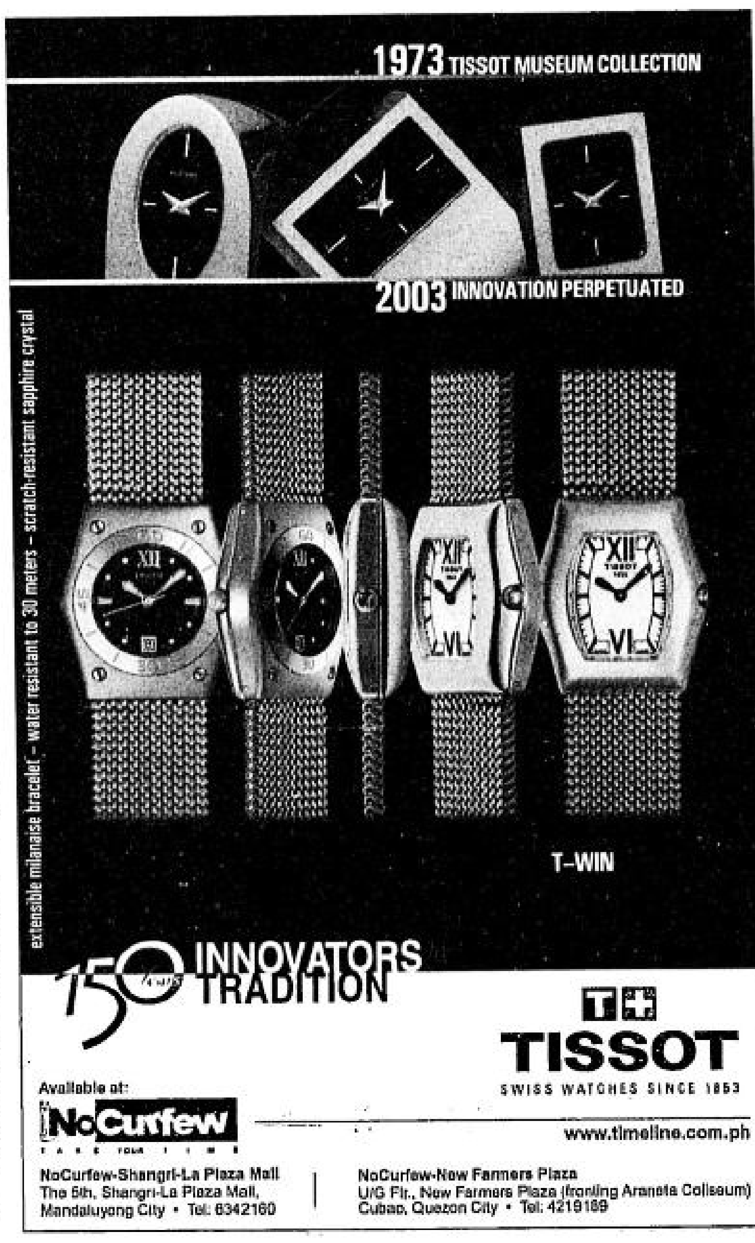

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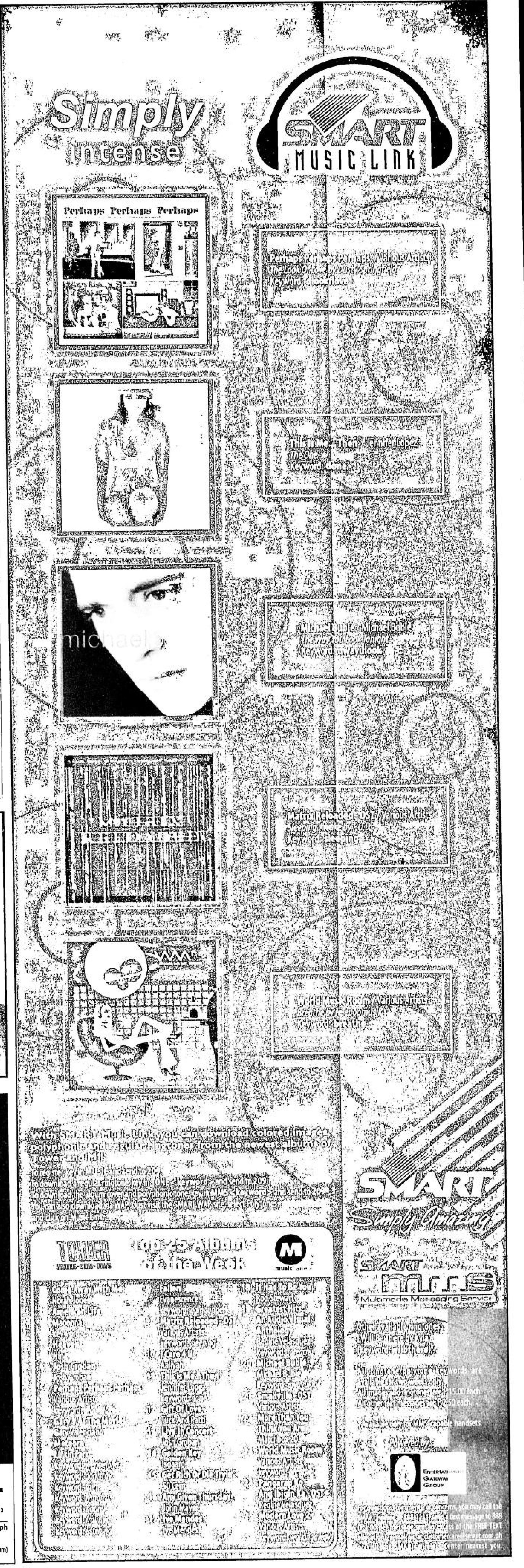

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YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 17 - MAY 23

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[illegible]	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:00 Arriba, Arriba 9:00 Fiftyesta Cinema 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	5:00 PBA Games 7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 14th Asian Games 2002 (Replay) 11:00 Business and Leisure	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office *I'm Sorry My Love* 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Dragon Ball Z 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 To Be Announced 10:00 Bakbakan sa Maynila	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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Chayanne, Pilar Montenegro lead winners in Latin Billboard Awards

By Adrian Sainz

MIAMI—Puerto Rican artist Chayanne and Mexican singer-actress Pilar Montenegro were the big winners at the Billboard Latin Music Awards Thursday night, taking home three trophies each.

Single

Chayanne, a veteran singer and actor who starred in the 1998 film "Dance With Me," won Latin track of the year—the top award for an individual song—for the single "Y Tu Te Vas (And Then You Leave)." The song also won pop airplay track of the year, and his work "Grandes Exitos" earned the best greatest hits album award.

Montenegro, whose song "Quitame Ese Hombre (Take Him Away From Me)" became an anthem for women, won female pop airplay track of the year. The song's norteno version won for regional Mexican track of the year for a female solo artist and for a new artist.

She performed her hit song in a glittery two-piece blue outfit—with her band and a group of male dancers wearing black cowboy hats in the background. The experienced performer admitted beforehand to being "nervous because I'm singing in front of all my colleagues."

Top honor

Brazilian singer Alexandre Pires was the hot Latin tracks artist of the year, the top honor given to an individual performer. Pires showed up without a date and sang his love song "Ama Me" (Love Me).

"Romance is in my blood," Pires said.

The upstart Spanish trio Las Ketchup, which tied Montenegro with most nominations with seven, won two awards for pop album of the year (new artist) and tropical-salsa airplay track of the year (new artist) for their best-selling song "Asereje," known to English listeners as "The Ketchup Song (Hey Hah)."

Colombian rocker Juanes, whose "Un Dia Normal (A Normal Day)" won for male pop album of the year, could hardly be heard during his acceptance speech. He said he briefly visited a hospital for treatment for hoarseness after performing this week in Miami.

Artist of the year

Mexican star Thalia won the female pop album of the year for "Thalia" and the Telemundo Viewers Choice award. Mexico's Los Temerarios took home the top Latin albums' artist of the year for "Una Lagrima No Basta" (One Tear Is Not Enough).

Thalia, who showed up in a flowing red dress, signed autographs for the adoring red carpet crowd, some of whom tossed flower petals at her.

Latin rock mainstays Mana won the album of the year award in the genre for "Revolucion de Amor" (Love Revolution). *AP*

THALIA greets fans at the 2003 Billboard Latin Music Awards ceremony, where she won the award for female pop album of the year.

REUTERS

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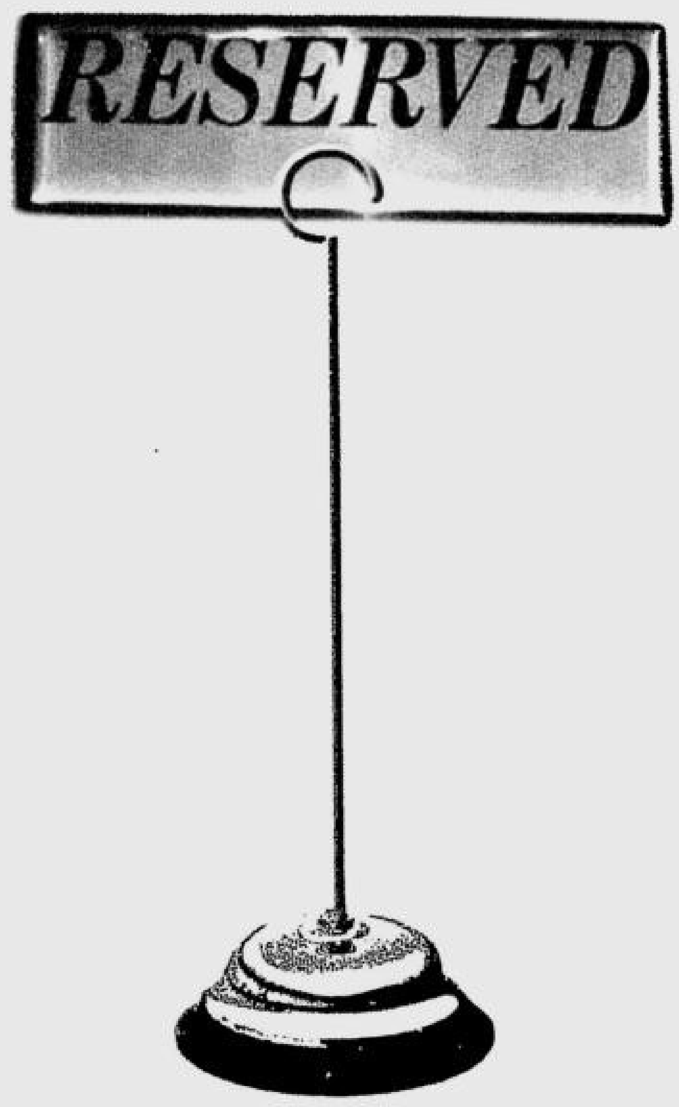

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'The Films of Asean' focuses on Vietnamese movies

By Noelani Torre

ANOTHER Asean country whose government is also greatly involved with mass media, including film, is Vietnam, In his essay in the book "The Films of Asean," Nguyen Van Tinh explains, "From the first day of its foundation in 1953 up to 1986, Vietnam's film industry was fully financed by the government."

System

After the country entered the market economy in '86, however, this system has been done away with—due, says the author, "to poor economic conditions." Still, Vietnam continues to subsidize the making of children's films and documentaries.

Like Brunei, Vietnam also has a government department that performs regulatory functions. At the time of Van Tinh's writing, the Vietnam Cinema Department controlled "all the activities of the film industry, including aesthetics, technology, finance, production, distribution, censorship, and international relations."

Control

We are all aware of the downside of an ever-present overseer, but the Vietnamese government's control over its industry has its positive side. For example, the government "also subsidizes film and video distribution in remote areas—in mountains, borders, and islands where the poor and ethnic minorities live."

Unlike in Brunei, film has played an important role in Vietnam's history. As Van Tinh puts it: "The development of Vietnam's film industry cannot be viewed separately from the development of the government.

"Born out of the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people against French colonialism, the revolutionary cinema of Vietnam was founded, supported, and brought up by the government."

It was an important ideological and propaganda tool during the 1945 August Revolution (against France) and the American war.

Government official

Author Van Tinh is the deputy director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam, and deputy director general of Asean-COCI Vietnam. Like Haji Yacob of Brunei, he is in effect a government official, in contrast to the five other contributors to this book who are lecturers, critics, or film practitioners.

No doubt, their governmental connection has colored their writing, especially in Van Tinh's case, as his piece sounds like a propaganda tract at times. But their essays are nevertheless founts of information concerning, as the editor writes in his introduction, "a section of world cinema that has not been adequately explored."

"THE Young Soldier," directed by Tran Vu.

This year's . . .

From page F1

As the world faced a new war in the Gulf, another top film on the international awards circuit was US anti-gun documentary "Bowling for Columbine" by Michael Moore. It won a prize at Cannes 2002, one at the Oscars and a whopping 20 other awards, from Amsterdam to Sao Paulo.

Previous winner

Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar, previous winner of a Best Director award at Cannes, was not selected to compete last year with his latest box-office hit, "Talk to Her." But Almodovar nonetheless won an Oscar for the film as Best Original Screenplay while picking up 14 awards at festivals worldwide, including a Golden Kinnaree for best film at the Bangkok film festival.

Meanwhile, Germany's prestigious film festival, the Berlinale, gave its top prize, the Golden Bear for Best Film, to a worthy but somewhat bleak movie about Afghan refugees.

"In This World," by British director Michael Winterbottom, has yet, however, to hit screens anywhere else than in Britain and Italy to show whether it will flop or not at the box office. *AFP*

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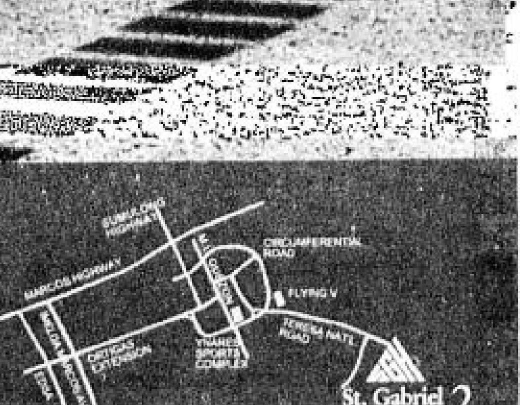

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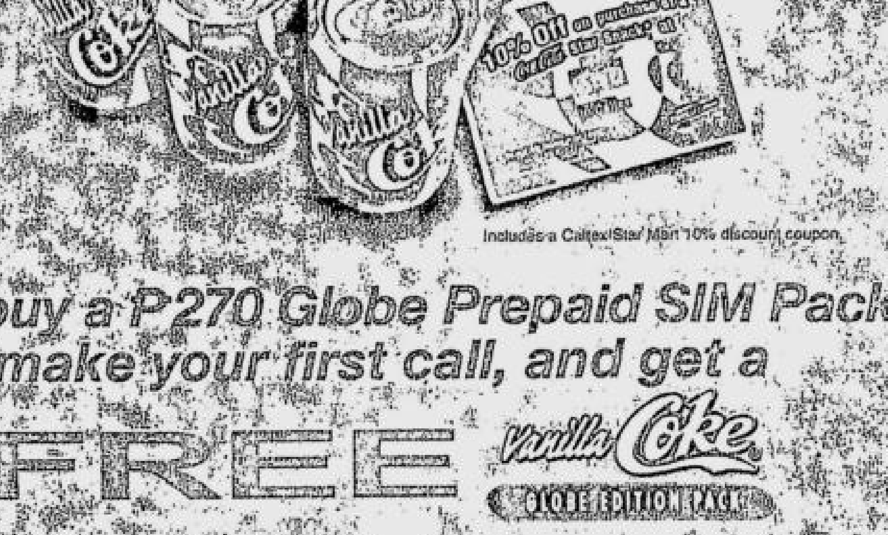

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ABC struggling to rebuild its primetime lineup

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—A new sitcom for morning TV host Kelly Ripa and a drama based on the Jennifer Lopez/George Clooney film "Out of Sight" are among the pilot series drawing the most buzz as contenders for the fall schedule ABC will unveil next week.

Leading candidates

Those two shows and nine other pilots have emerged as the leading candidates for an ABC launch next season as executives at the Walt Disney Co.-owned network toil away on a program lineup that can boost its sagging fortunes.

Meanwhile, ABC executives are said to be uncertain about the future of two existing shows—veteran legal drama "The Practice" and the freshman remake of "Dragnet." ABC, which has struggled for two seasons in the ratings doldrums, found marginal success this past year with several comedies, like "George Lopez" and "Eight Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter." But the network remains desperate for a breakout hit.

The network's most pressing challenge is to find solid new dramas for the 10 o'clock hour. A number of dramas launched last fall collapsed from poor ratings, and the highly anticipated "Dragnet" series from producer Dick Wolf has struggled to find an audience since its debut early this year.

Major bright spot

The Emmy-winning "Practice" has likewise stumbled in the ratings since it was moved out of its longtime Sunday night berth to make room for "Dragnet." One major bright spot on ABC's lineup this season has been the hit reality franchise "The Bachelor," but network executives have acknowledged pressing their luck with such unscripted duds as "I'm a Celebrity . . . Get Me Out of Here!" and "Are You Hot? The Search for America's Sexiest People." ABC is due to announce its programming lineup for the 2003-04 season next Tuesday at its "upfront" sales presentation to advertisers in New York.

In terms of ABC's scripted development slate, word has it that network executives have narrowed their choices for the upcoming season to nearly a dozen shows, including the Kelly Ripa comedy and a drama inspired by "Out of Sight."

Characters

The pilot series adapted from "Out of Sight" would star little-known actress Carla Gugino, movie veteran Robert Forster and former "thirtysomething" star Peter Horton. The series is based on characters created by Elmore Leonard and adapted for the 1998 film that starred Lopez as a federal marshal and George Clooney as a career bank robber.

Another leading contender is a legal drama based on John Grisham's best-selling novel "The Street Lawyer," co-starring Mario Van Peebles and Hal Holbrook. Lawyers also figure prominently in two other promising pilot dramas—one set in the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and another about a recovering alcoholic who opens a storefront law practice.

On the comedy front, ABC is said to be high on four other sitcoms—including one from former "Spin City" star Michael J. Fox, one from producer Chris Henchy tentatively titled "I'm with Her" (inspired by his marriage to actress Brooke Shields) and a "Bird Cage"-esque romance about the son of conservative parents dating the daughter of a gay couple. *Reuters*

"OUT OF SIGHT." The Clooney-Lopez starrer has inspired the production of a TV drama series.

FOX. Working on a new sitcom

DYLAN McDermott stars in "The Practice" which has stumbled in the ratings.

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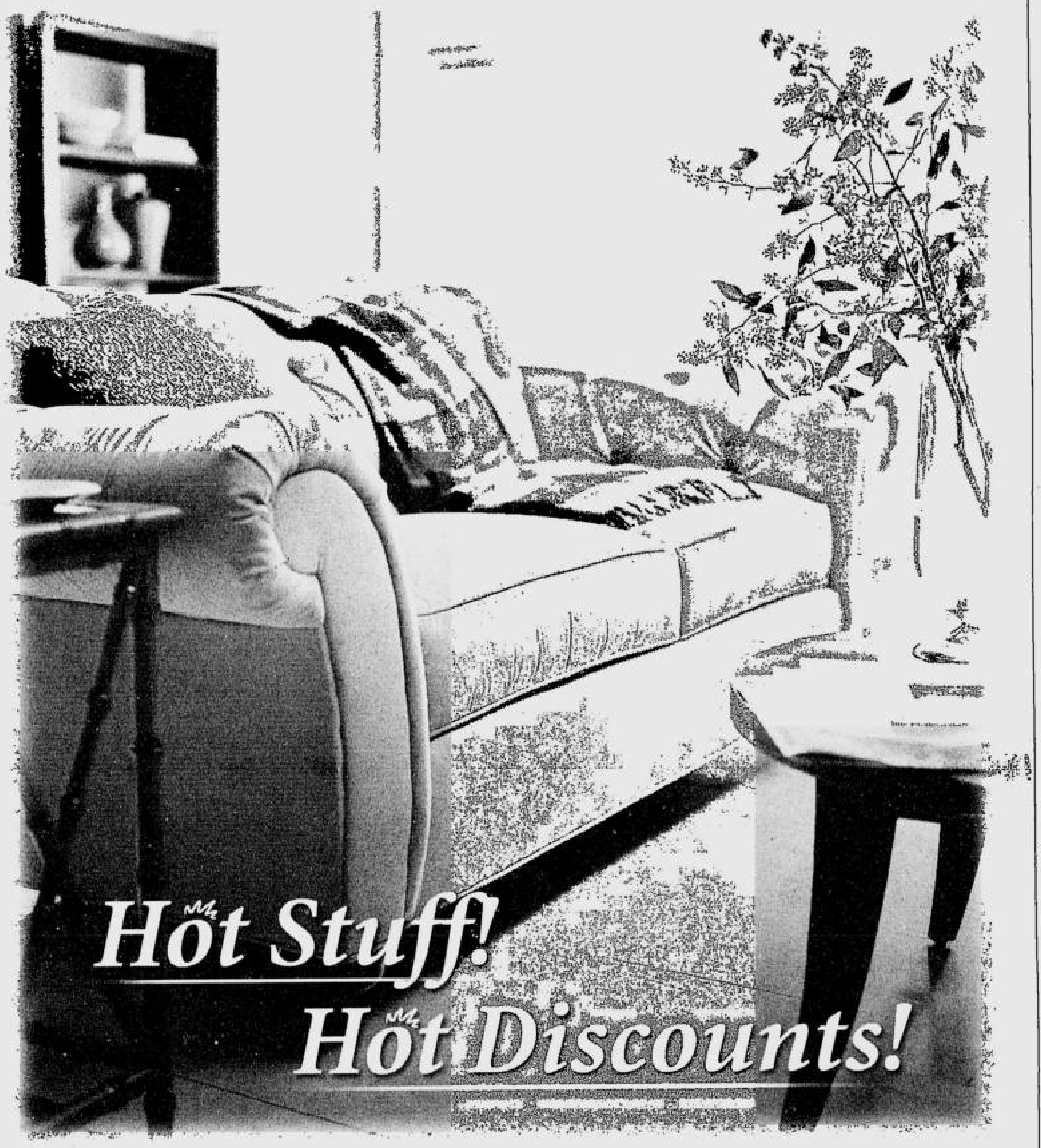

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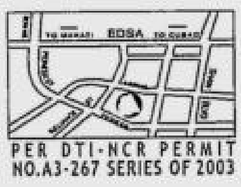

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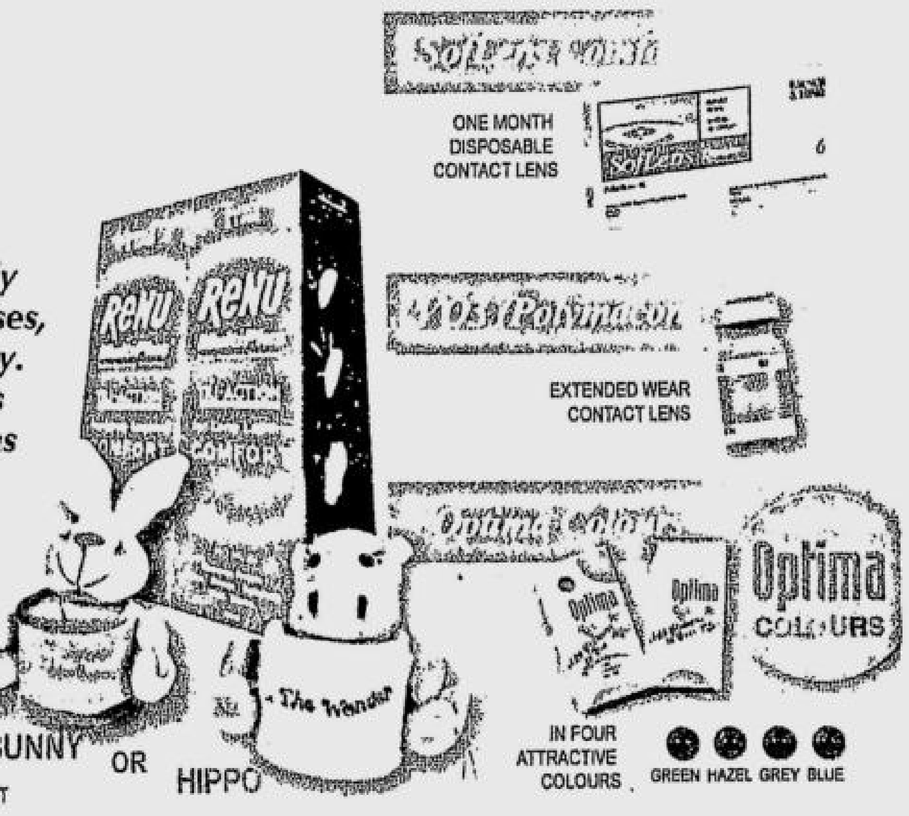

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Deana Carter returns to charts with new album and 'nude' video

By John Gerome

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—Five years is a long sabbatical in a business where careers rise and fall with the music charts.

But if singer Deana Carter is worried about being away since 1998, she's not letting on.

The wispy blonde who sang of lost virginity in her breakthrough song, "Strawberry Wine," is at it again, this time baring all in a new video for her latest hit, "There's No Limit."

Tomboy

"I've really learned to embrace my femininity," said Carter, a self-professed tomboy. "I want to embrace it and do it tastefully and organically. I certainly don't want to be exploitive. I think it's something to be proud of."

The song, the first single from her new album, "I'm Just a Girl," reached No. 14 on the Billboard chart while the album went to No. 6.

That pales beside the numbers she racked up with her 1996 debut, the multiplatinum "Did I Shave My Legs for This?"

But it marks her first return to the Top 20 since her 1998 follow-up, "Everything's Gonna Be Alright," a commercial disappointment that yielded only one hit.

Slump

Carter, 37, blames the slump on her old record label, Capitol Nashville. She says she worked with four label presidents before she asked to be released.

"The last record was critically acclaimed, but it just didn't have the economic support," she said. "That's what makes all of the difference. You put all of your blood and sweat into an album, but you still need the label to support it."

She's now on the Arista label and enjoying a career rebirth. Her video for "There's No Limit" is one of the most requested on Country Music Television. She's appeared on the "Tonight" show with Jay Leno and is performing to large crowds on Kenny Chesney's Margaritas & Senoritas tour.

Fans still remember Carter from "Strawberry Wine," said Chris Parr, vice president of talent relations for CMT.

"That's one of those songs that is a legitimate, bona fide hit, and those don't go away," Parr said. "I think it's probably a key part of why she still has a base out there and has been well received."

The new video doesn't hurt, either. It shows a nude Carter slipping on a pair of men's boxer briefs and frolicking around the bedroom.

CARTER. Has learned to embrace her femininity.

Other formats

"It grabs your attention," Parr said. "I equate it to the Faith Hill video for 'Breathe.' People see it and think, 'Wow,' but compared to other music videos in other formats . . . nothing is revealed."

A lot has happened to Carter over the past five years. Aside from leaving her label, she divorced songwriter Chris DiCroce and moved to Los Angeles where she's tried her hand at acting, appearing in independent films and TV sitcoms.

Strength

"It's amazing how in touch I've become with my strength and the things I've realized because of all this," she said. "I used to think happiness was like the lottery: either you had the numbers or you didn't. But that's not so. Everybody can be happy if you're willing to work at it."

The changes in her personal life show in many of the 12 new songs, all of which she wrote or co-wrote as well as co-produced.

In "Me and the Radio," a song inspired by her move to California, she sings "2nd Avenue is twinkling behind me/ Memories of you do their best to blind me/ The river's rolling by, well baby, so am I."

The daughter of respected Nashville session guitarist Fred Carter Jr., her music leans heavily toward pop and rock. The tracks "Wildflower" and "You and Tequila," for example, are mostly acoustic numbers that recall James Taylor or Jackson Browne, while the driving "Girls' Night" crackles with electric guitars.

Childhood

Carter's career bloomed relatively late. Her childhood was filled with music, with her father playing on records by Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Roy Orbison, Elvis Presley, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and others. She is named for Dean Martin, who recorded two of her father's songs.

She knew early on she wanted to be a professional singer, but her first attempt in her teens failed. She went to college at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and after graduating got a job as a rehabilitation therapist.

But she found the work emotionally draining and quit after about a year, returning to Nashville to write songs. One of her demo tapes caught the attention of Nelson, a family friend who invited her to sing at the 1994 Farm Aid concert in New Orleans.

She landed a record deal with Liberty (now Capitol), but the release of "Did I Shave My Legs for This?" was delayed because of corporate changes at the label. When the album finally came out, it sold more than four million copies and produced four Top 10 hits, including three No.1s.

Carter says she's paid her dues, and then some.

"You kind of earn your stripes," she said. "You have to prove you have a good work ethic and try to maintain your artistry at the same time." *AP*

Boob-tube Booboos acquire a life of their own

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR Boob-Tube Booboos appear to have acquired a life of their own. These days, it sometimes seems like they've even defined our very existence!

Slap-happy smiles

Very often, when we meet people for the first time, they no longer say, "Oh, the writer and editor," or "Oh, the former TV host," or "Oh, the director of 'Magsimula Ka,' 'Katy' and 'Magnificat!'" Now, they invariably exclaim, "Oh, 'Boob-Tube Booboos!" With big, slap-happy smiles on their faces.

We used to get thrown off by this latest redefinition and reaffirmation of our existence— but, you know what?, we've learned to enjoy and love it. Other should be so lucky to make so many people happy!

Right after that grinning greeting, the next conversational gambit is invariably, "Do you *really* get all those booboos off the TV screen?" The implied accusation is that we think up some of the more outrageously funny bloopers, just to sweeten the comedic pot.

We hastily assure our new friends, "No, we don't invent anything. We may resequence some exchanges or edit some words for better comic focus, but the punchline is always authentic."

"How do you get so many funny booboos?

TV set

"Well, it just so happens that we love watching TV shows—good, bad or indifferent. Whenever we're at home and aren't sleeping, the TV set is always on. Even when we're doing something else, our ears are cocked for bloopers, and we always have paper and pen on hand to jot them down before we forget them."

"You should identify the people who make those boners on TV."

"No way! We Pinoys are so *pikon*, that would really be begging for trouble. Anyway, our point has always been: laugh at the boo-boo, not at the person who makes it. Some people say they learn a lot about incorrect and correct usage from Boob-Tube Booboos, but to us that's just a side advantage; the main intent is really to brighten people's day with unintended humor."

Too simplistic

"Now, you're being too simplistic. Boob-Tube Booboos show what happens when people on TV talk beyond their knowledge or capacity, are too *mayabang* for their own good, yap away before they think, or resort to so many cliches that they've only half-understood. While all this is funny, it's also sad because it shows how badly we've been educated, our colonial mentality for preferring to speak in English even if we don't really know the language—etc.!"

"If you want to go that way, fine. But we think those are other adjuncts to our main objective, which is the humor content of the booboo for its own sake."

"Your comments are also funny. How do you come up with them?"

"Very spontaneously. It's like we're watching TV and hear a blooper, and we react on the spot. That's it. If some readers think it enhances the humor, great."

"Please compile your best booboos in a book. It would make a wonderful Christmas gift."

"Thanks for the suggestion. By the way, our friend Behn says we should also come up

BOOB-TUBE/ G3

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ADVT.

Hollywood gatecrashes Cannes with 'Matrix,' 'Terminator'

By Marc Burleigh

CANNES—Hollywood is gatecrashing the Cannes film festival in a big way this year, after being largely left out of the high-profile event's official competition.

World premieres

"The Matrix Reloaded" and "Terminator 3," the long-awaited instalments in the two hugely successful sci-fi franchises, get their world premieres during the 12-day festival.

Huge billboards promoting the sure-fire blockbusters already have pride of place on the chic seafront, and exclusive parties with stars Keanu Reeves and Arnold Schwarzenegger are at the top of the agenda for the jet setters and celebrities headed to Cannes.

Neither movie has anything to do with the festival's official selection, but their deep-pocketed US studios are looking to push these and other big-budget productions at Cannes, piggybacking on the event's role as the main showcase for world cinema.

Fanfare

Festival organizers are more than happy for the fanfare Hollywood brings, even as they stay focused on the more-serious competition for the esteemed Palme d'Or prize—often comprising a field of eclectic contenders chosen from all corners of the planet.

Twenty films have been selected this year, five of them from host nation France.

Britain is represented by veteran filmmaker Peter Greenaway, who is presenting "The Moab Story / The Tulse Luper Suitcases—Part I," while Asia will have three films in the running (two from Japan and one from China).

US films, curiously, are underrepresented in comparison with past years.

Organizers stress this is not a result of the frayed political relations between Paris and Washington over Iraq, and industry observers note that part of the reason was that many of this year's big US films—Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill" for instance—are still in post-production.

The biggest of the three US-made films that did make it into the competition is "Mystic River," a thriller directed by Clint Eastwood.

The other two are "Elephant" by Gus Van Sant, which has echoes of the real-life Columbine High School massacre, and "The Brown Bunny" by Vincent Gallo, an actor turning his hand to directing.

Latest offering

Hollywood glamour will also stand out in "Dogville," the latest offering by Danish director Lars von Trier, which stars Nicole Kidman (fresh from her Oscar win for playing Virginia Woolf in "The Hours").

The Australian actress is expected to talk about the film—and it's possible she might even bump into Tom Cruise, her ex-husband who is now seeing Spanish beauty Penelope Cruz.

Cruz will be there because of her role in "Fanfan La Tulipe," a French remake of a swashbuckling adventure.

Other show biz faces will also make an appearance, whether to promote a project, or simply to party and relax under the balmy Riviera weather in the company of other personalities.

Meg Ryan, who is sitting on the Palme d'Or jury, will be here, as will Monica Bellucci, who is in the latest "Matrix" film, as well as Lauren Bacall, Charlotte Rampling and Sean Penn.

Virtually all accommodation in Cannes, from miniscule hotel rooms to luxurious walled villas perched on the surrounding hills, is full, booked by the movers and shakers of the movie world, or by the thousands of fans and film lovers attracted by the bright lights and excess of the festival.

7,000 delegates

The market—the behind-the-scenes dealmaking forum where productions are thought up, bought and sold—is expected to bring in 7,000 delegates alone.

The market also brings another 700 films to Cannes, over and above the 20 in the Palme d'Or competition and the 32 screened in official sideline selections.

Such a massive influx of the influential from around the world poses its own problems—especially with the SARS pandemic that has shaken the travel industry in recent months.

Veronique Cayla, the administrative head of the festival, told AFP that countries that had been badly affected by the epidemic had reduced the number of people they were sending.

Airports in those countries, as well as in France and particularly on the Riveria, were conducting thorough checks for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), she said.

"Given that these are long trips, the crews are watching for possible symptoms. I cannot see how, in these conditions, anyone sick could escape detection." AFP

KEANU Reeves in "The Matrix Reloaded."

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EWTN's wimpled wonder has lived an eventful life

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

AFTER her long illness, Mother Angelica got well—and she was determined to keep her promise to build a monastery. But the South is predominantly Protestant, so she had her work cut out for her. But, with the zeal and energy she would soon become famous for, she tackled the job.

MOTHER ANGELICA. "Unless we are willing to do the ridiculous, God will not do the miraculous!"

First venture

"Unless we are willing to do the ridiculous, God will not do the miraculous," Mother Angelica often says, and that first venture certainly seemed overly ambitious. Nonetheless, Mother and the other sisters persevered, and Mother Angelica thought of a way to raise the funds they needed—making and selling fishing lures!

They weren't as successful as they thought they would be at first, but they caught the attention of a national Catholic newspaper who published their story, and soon the orders came pouring in. God, it seemed, would provide, no matter what.

Promise

With the establishment of the Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale, Alabama, Mother Angelica kept her promise to God. And she didn't stop there.

The "little nun who could" got into printing to spread the word of God-and from that, it was a short step to the medium of television. How she set up her printing press and TV studio are fascinating tales of resolve and a great deal of faith.

Irrepressible

"Faith is having one foot on the ground and the other up in the air, waiting for the Lord to put the ground under it," says the irrepressible Mother Angelica. She didn't know anything about printing or TV, but when she decided that they were the right fields to go into, there was no stopping her.

In O'Neill's book, a clear picture of Mother Angelica emerges—as a human being like us, and, in the words of one sister, as a "spiritual giant." Now, despite funding problems, she continues to reach out to millions of people, giving hope, comfort, and often, a good, badly-needed laugh.

Amazing what a "little" faith can do!

Boob-tube . . .

From page G2

with a companion comedy CD. We're working on those and other suggestions. It's great that people are so interested!"

Latest batch

"OK, fine. But where's our latest batch of Boob-tube Booboos?"

"Coming right up! Enjoy:"

Guest: We have special guest celebrities and performers, and at the stroke of midnight, some exciting pyro-techniques!

(That's pyrotechnics, dear. Pyro-techniques are, uh, techniques that pyromaniacs use to start fires—?)

* * *

Host: I hear there was a problem during the famous singer's recent concert?

Co-host: Yes, the audience was surprised when, after singing only five songs, she abruptly excited the stage, and the concert abruptly ended!

(*Ay*, excited the stage!)

* * *

Host: How many gunmen were involved in the shootout?

Field reporter: Four, according to the police.

Host: How do they know?

Field reporter: They were able to interview two wetnesses at the scene of the encounter.

(You're all wet!)

* * *

Host: How do you instill values in your children?

Guest: I make sure *na* my kids, *malapit ang pusod nila sa Diyos!*

(*Malapit ang pusod?*)

* * *

Host: How important is learning good English for you?

Guest: Frankly, not very. Even in beauty contests internationally, not so. As we all know, beauty contestants abroad, *marami, may* interpretation *sila!*

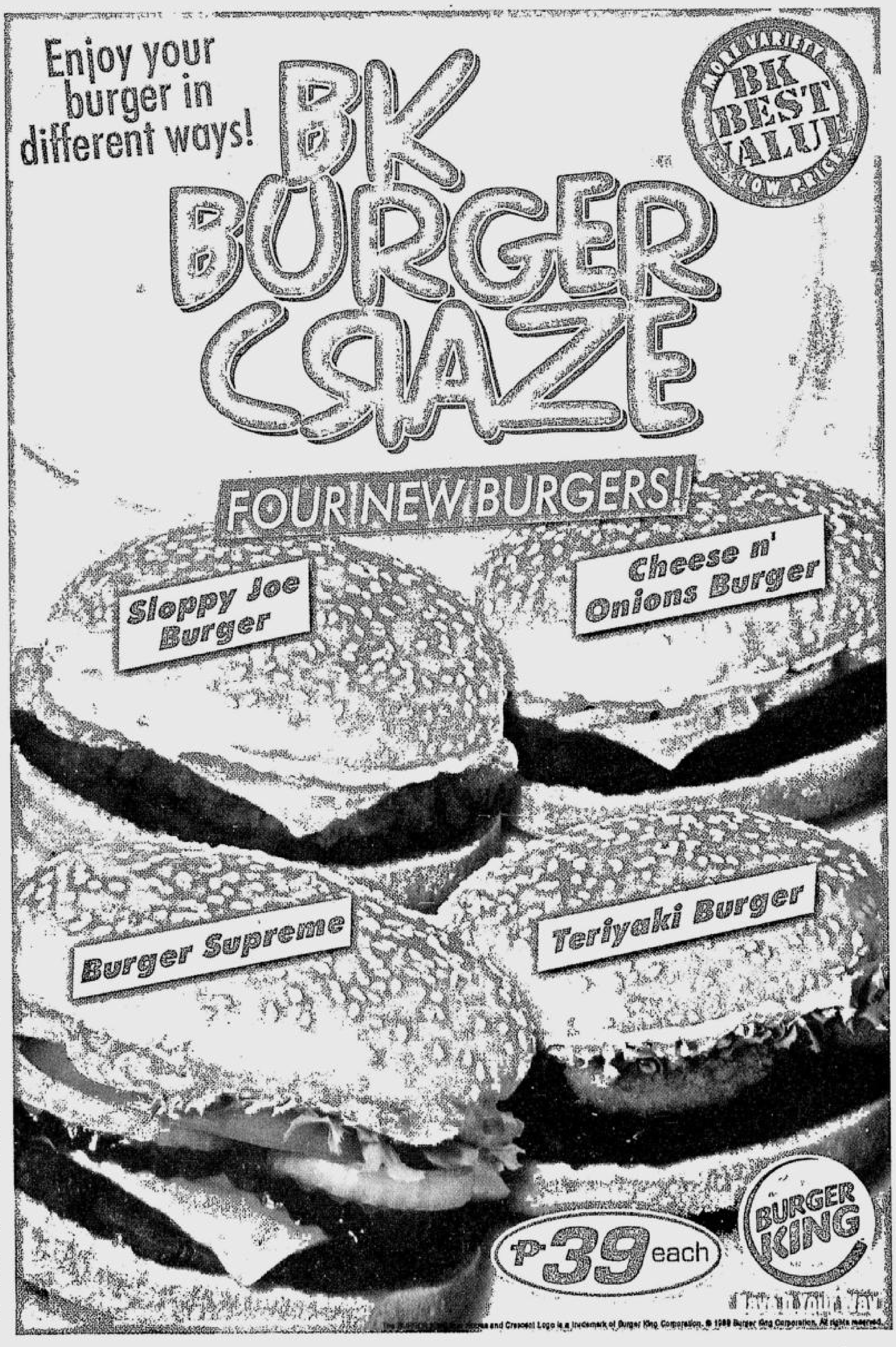
(*Ay, may* interpretation!)

* * *

Host: Are you planning to have more children?

Guest: Well, I'm on the way now—but this will be my last, if ever.

(*Kung* last *na, bakit may* if ever *pa*?)



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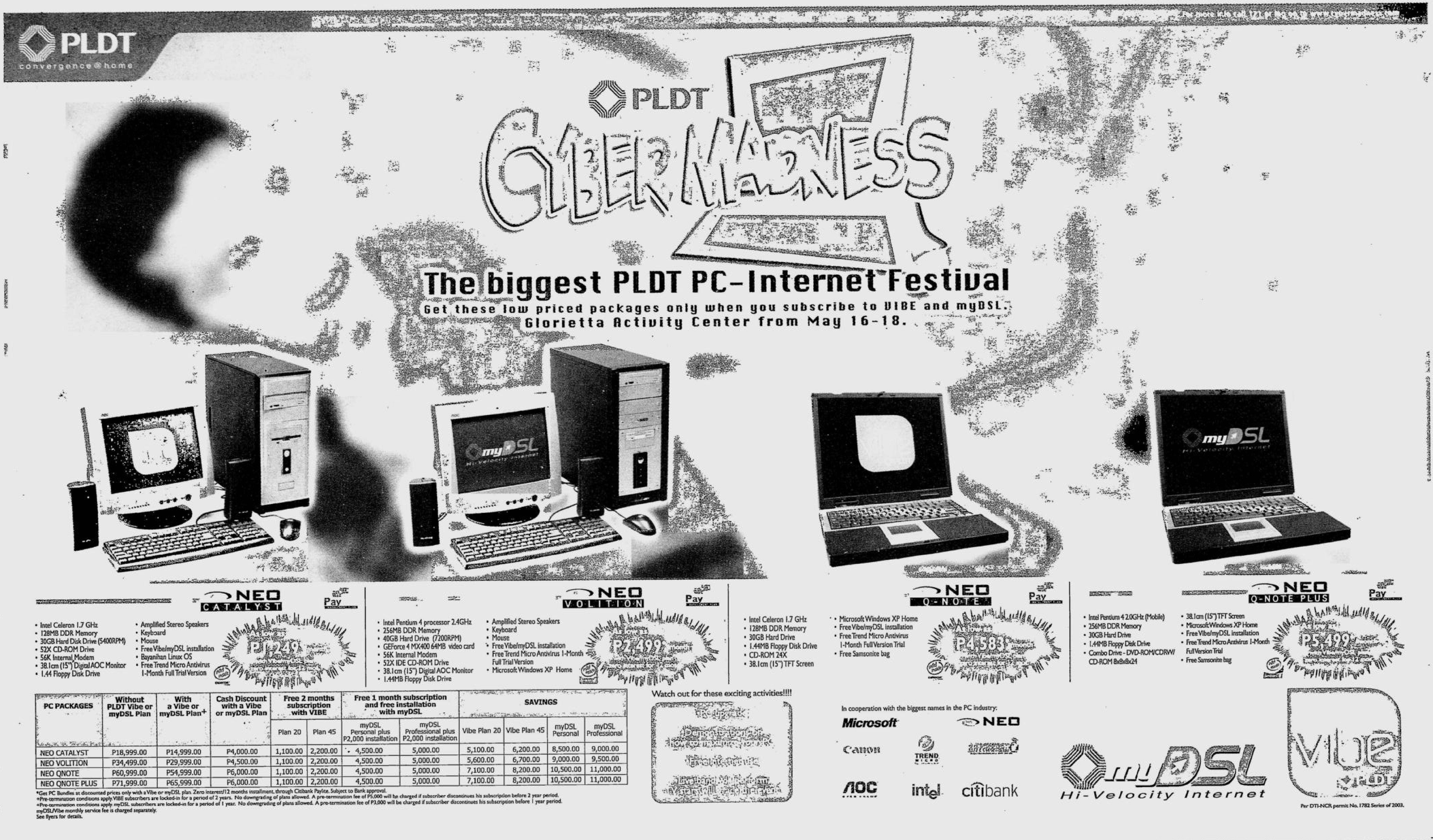

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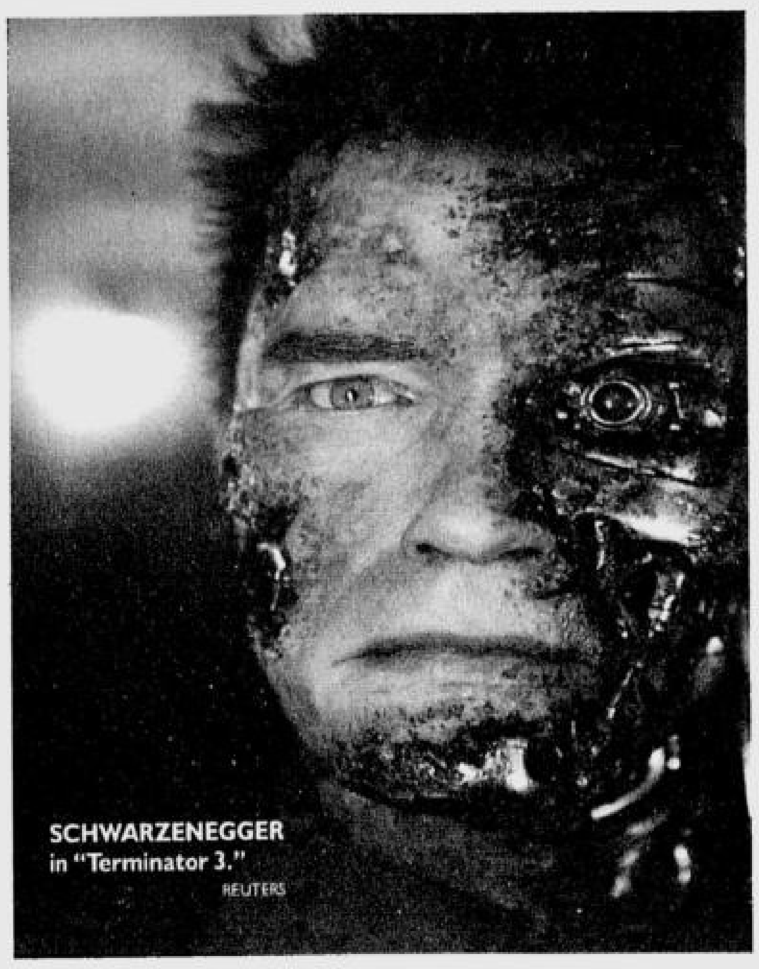


SCHWARZENEGGER in "Terminator 3." REUTERS

The Terminator is back—partying at the filmfest

By Paul Majendie

CANNES—He promised "I'll be back." True to his trademark sign-off, action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger returns in "Terminator 3" and aims to use the glamour of the Cannes festival to get the publicity rolling.

Star guest

Schwarzenegger is to be the star guest at a party held in French fashion designer Pierre Cardin's space age Palais Bulles (Bubble Palace), nestled in the hills above the town.

"This is the ultimate party in Cannes," boasted a spokeswoman for MTV music channel, joint hosts with Columbia Tristar of Saturday night's bash.

Last year Cardin's house played host to James Bond with a party to mark the 40th anniversary of 007 on screen.

This time it is the turn of the 55-year-old former body-builder once picked by the Guinness Book of Records for having the world's most perfectly developed physique.

With the release of the "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," Schwarzenegger is hoping to regain the box office muscle he once commanded at the height of his career.

The Austrian reportedly earned $30 million to reprise his role as the unstoppable man-machine from the future.

Political plunge

Schwarzenegger has confidently predicted "Terminator 3" will make millions, but the question everyone is asking in Cannes is—Will Arnie take the political plunge and run for California governor in 2006?

Speaking to the Hollywood trade paper Variety before Cannes, he said: "Of course I haven't made a decision, otherwise I'd be out there running.

"Right now I'm very focused on promoting the movie and on show business, and if I decide to switch over to the other thing, then I would have to make the announcement that I was retiring."

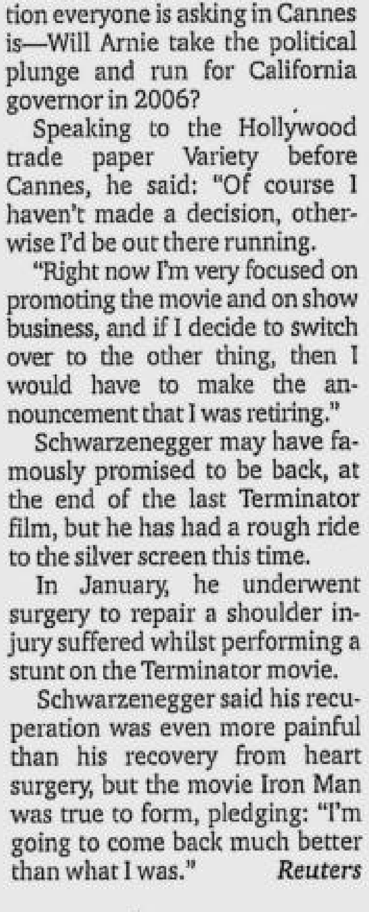
Schwarzenegger may have famously promised to be back, at the end of the last Terminator film, but he has had a rough ride to the silver screen this time.

In January, he underwent surgery to repair a shoulder injury suffered whilst performing a stunt on the Terminator movie.

Schwarzenegger said his recuperation was even more painful than his recovery from heart surgery, but the movie Iron Man was true to form, pledging: "I'm going to come back much better than what I was." *Reuters*

Ayen Munji explores new musical horizons

By Nestor U. Torre



MUNJI. From fairytale princess to queen of her own life.

WAY back in the 1980s, Ms Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, composer and wife of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., asked us to and script direct a musical presentation showcasing the beautiful and meaningful songs she had penned through the years.

The musical director Bing had tapped for the show was the well-regarded Emy Munji.

Daughter

As we started casting the musical production, which was topbilled by Dulce, Lourna Pal and Bimbo Cerrudo, Bing told us that Emy had a beautiful and musically gifted daughter who had yet to perform in a professional production. She knew that we liked showcasing talented newcomers, so she arranged for us to meet Emy's daughter, Ayen.

We went to Emy's modest home and Ayen performed a number for us. We were impressed with her beauty, verve and singing voice, so we put her in the cast of Bing's production, "Buhay, Isang Awit."

Novelty number

Ayen did well in the show's standard scenes, but we wanted to test her versatility, so we tapped her to play an old woman in a novelty number.

The young talent protested that playing old people was beyond her ken and interest, but we held our ground. Grudgingly, she played the part—and the audience enjoyed her performance.

Next, we were tapped to direct a very big show, the centennial presentation of San Miguel Corp. Since many of the members of the audience were top executives flying in from all over the world, we knew that we had to come up with a really great show to sustain their interest.

Central to this objective was the importance of casting the best musical-theater talents in the country in the centennial presentation, which would end up with a cast literally in the hundreds. Among the key players we cast was the newcomer Ayen, because

AYEN/ H3

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J Lo pares down the techno wizardry

LOPEZ. Still working out her own definitive sound and style.

By Noelani Torre

LATINA sensation Jennifer Lopez has been highly visible this past year. The star has been making headlines for various reasons—a new movie, a new album, and a new man.

Outcome

Her relationship with Ben Affleck and their wedding has had practically everybody speculating, but we're here to talk about her album. Still, it's quite obvious that the former has affected the outcome of the latter to some extent: You'll be hearing a softer Jennifer Lopez in this new release.

"This Is Me . . . Then" (Epic) has 13 tracks (two bonus), almost all of which dealing with the dangerously-prone-to-mushiness themes of love and relationships. There's even a song "Dear Ben," addressed directly to Affleck himself.

At the end of the album's inlay, Lopez somewhat sappily acknowledges his "contributions": "You are my life, my sole inspiration for every lyric, every emotion, every bit of feeling on this record . . . This would have been a totally different album, had you not come into my life . . ." Well, you get the drift.

Complete contrast

All in all, there's nothing really objectionable about this album, which is quite easy to listen to. It just happens that the CD we were listening to before this was metal, which makes for complete contrast, and not exactly a refreshing one. Lopez's album just sounds lightweight and frivolous in comparison, though it is not fair to judge between genres.

Anyway, Lopez isn't just softer in this album, she's also abandoned big dance tunes and a lot of the techno pyrotechnics that have characterized her music in the past. Most of the songs here are catchy enough, though few enjoy good recall after you listen to them.

One of the good things going for this record is the seamless way it's been put together. This is certainly one of the most polished albums we've listened to recently, and the sound and thematic unity of the material itself helps a great deal in promoting this quality.

Song follows song smoothly, with no awkward shifts, though the down side to this is the tendency to flow *too* easily, making the album sound like one big, homogenous song.

Packaging

Since Lopez has paired down the techno wizardry, the album sometimes sounds a little thin. She just doesn't have the voice to pull it off. Sure she can sing, but the effect is more agreeable than impressive or inspiring. Lopez relies as much on her looks and packaging as she does on her musical abilities.

What she hasn't abandoned is her practice of collaborating with other artists, most of the time with rappers. The album's sixth track, "All I Have," features LL Cool J, and the next one, "Jenny From The Block," is with Styles and Jadakiss.

Reflection

On the inlay, Lopez tells her fans that her new album is "a reflection of who I am at this specific moment in time . . ." And "Jenny From the Block" is her assertion that fame and fortune haven't changed her.

The song's chorus goes: "Don't be fooled/ By the things that I got/ I'm Still/ I'm Still/ Jenny from the block/ Used to have a little, now I have a lot/ No matter where I go/ I know where I came from."

Different

We mention this song because it's different from the others in terms of subject matter and sound. It has a faster, stronger rhythm, and doesn't address romantic issues. It sounds, as a matter of fact, like the songs Lopez sang before this album.

We don't have any favorites here. Though well made, this album sounds undecided, as though the artist hadn't really made up her mind yet about the sound she wanted to achieve.

She also sounds like an artist who's slowly discovering her own sound and style. Though this effort doesn't seem to be that successful, we have no doubt she'll come up with something ear and eye-catching in the future. After all, she's Jennifer Lopez!

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Viewers become casualties of the network wars

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHY do networks insist on using their magazine programs to promote their own shows? Can't they forget about their self-interest, for once, and think of the viewers who deserve substantial features rather than pluggings of forthcoming shows and movies on supposedly entertainment programs?

When ABS-CBN has a new soap or its sister company Star Cinema has a new release coming up, expect the stars of those forthcoming productions to crowd the network schedules from morning till night. The same is true for GMA-7, which uses their live shows as vehicles for promoting new projects.

Even when the topic for discussion is not related to a movie or TV show, the programs guest actors and actresses identified with the network. It's as though only celebrities understand the problems being discussed in the shows. The networks forget about non-show biz personalities who can be more knowledgeable about different topics.

I understand that the networks want to jack up their ratings so they use star power to help them realize their objectives. Because of the network wars, however, it's not possible for a GMA star to guest on an ABS-CBN show. That, to me, smacks of selfishness and the viewers are the big losers in this dog-eat-dog competition.

Sleaze-free TV

There have been lots of complaints aired about the amount of sleaze that is aired on television. The networks and their performers have been pushing the envelope too far to test just how much farther they can go.

The MTRCB has taken notice and already, there is a move to be stricter in reviewing TV shows because these are available to all viewers, which include children.

It makes sense because there are more people who watch TV than movies. It's easier to shield children from the adult movies that are shown on the big screen because theaters enforce the "For Adults Only" rating very strictly.

It's harder to do that for television because the boob tube invades the privacy of households. There's no "*takilyera*" to ensure that only adults watch "R"-rated features.

The solution then is to make sure that all programs that are aired on TV are suitable for all audiences. The strictest rating a program should get is a Parental Guidance classification, which means shows that can be easily explained by adults to their children.

Perhaps, the more mature programs should be aired during the late hours when young viewers are already asleep. This is also the ideal time for adults to watch TV because many of them work during the day and only have the late evening to watch TV.

There is a bill pending in Congress which would make it compulsory for networks to air only "G"-rated shows from morning till the evening primetime hours. Personally, I find this a bit much because there are PG-rated shows that can be aired during those hours. The filing of this bill, however, is a sign that more and more people are getting concerned about the kind of shows that our children are watching.

Before the MTRCB and Congress really start bearing down on the networks, our TV people should re-examine their programming policies and start thinking of our children's welfare rather than their ratings.

Exodus

Some quarters are looking at the exodus of ABS-CBN talents to GMA-7 as a sign that the Star Network is not treating its talents right. They hail GMA for "rescuing" these stars from the "evil" network.

That may be true in some instances, but another way of looking at this recent development is that the Star Network is realizing that some stars no longer have the glitter that they used to have when they started at ABS-CBN. There are more promising talents waiting in the sidelines to take their place.

These stars who have lost their gloss have been offered new shows but they are too proud to admit that they are no longer as popular as they were before. So they turn down the offers and threaten to move to the other side.

Well, ABS-CBN has called their bluff and GMA has taken the bait and signed them up. It doesn't look good for GMA because it's getting an image as the dumping ground of rejects from the other network.

Don't they have any other sources of talents? Is GMA's own backyard bereft of stars who can compete *mano a mano* with the Star Network?

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AGENTS AND BROKERS ARE WELCOME!

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Regine releases another movie soundtrack album

By Edmund L. Sicam

RELEASING an original movie soundtrack album before the actual film comes out is one of the ways movie companies promote upcoming releases. In the case of Viva's "Pangarap Kong Ibigin Ka," one of the entries in the Manila Film Festival, the biggest plus factor is the movie's leading lady, Regine Velasquez, who is also a topnotch singer.

VELASQUEZ. Regards Ogie Alcasid as her lucky charm.

New compositions

The "Pangarap" album contains new compositions as well as previously recorded tunes. The theme song is an Ogie Alcasid composition, something that he was able to finish in 30 minutes. Regine says she was planning to use one of Ogie's old songs, but when she talked to him on the phone about it, he said he would come up with a new song. Half an hour later, Ogie was on the line, singing the title song.

Regine liked it immediately and it has joined Ogie's list of theme songs for Regine's movies—"Ikaw Lamang, Hanggang Ngayon," Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," and "Pangarap, Ikaw Lamang." The Songbird considers Ogie her lucky charm because all the movies she's made using his music have done well at the box office.

Another highlight of the album is Regine's duet with her leading man, Christopher de Leon. Although Boyet has not recorded an album of his own, he has had some experience as a singer, having done the musicals "Godspell" and "They're Playing Our Song."

Boyet recalls that he once signed up with a recording company to do an album. He even forked over some of his own money for the project, but nothing came out of it.

Musicals

Today, Boyet feels his voice has improved, so he has thought of doing an album and is keen about going back to stage musicals.

In the "Pangarap" OST, Boyet sings "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You" popularized by Frankie Valli and The Lettermen more than 20 years ago, with Regine. In the movie, the song is used to express Regine's love for Boyet's character. Later, he sings the same song with her to reciprocate her feelings.

·Other highlights from the album include Regine's interpretation of Pinoy rock favorites, "Hinahanap-hanap Kita" from Rivermaya and "Harana" from Parokya ni Edgar. Also featured are Tribe of Levi with "Kaligayahan Natin" and Zebedee Zuñiga with "All of My Life."

"Pangarap Kng Iibigin Ka" marks Regine's second team-up with Boyet. The first one was "Wanted Perfect Mother." Writer Mel del Rosario recalls that when they were planning the movie, they had a difficult time finding a leading man for Regine, whose previous movie appearances, "Pik, Pak, Bum" and "Untouchable Family," did not do well at the box office. Many actors turned down the project, but Boyet agreed to play the Captain Von Trapp-type role.

Viva is hoping that their second pairing will do even better than their first team-up. In the movie, Boyet's love scenes with Regine are more intense. He is amazed at how the Songbird has grown in the acting department, especially in comic scenes.

Discomfort

Regine, on the other hand, says she still can't get used to doing love scenes. "I really feel uncomfortable doing those scenes," the Songbird confesses. From her first movie, her love scenes have become more and more intimate.

Her discomfort stems from the physical conditions when a love scene is shot. "How can you feel romantic with the bright lights, crew and the sound of the camera rolling?" says Regine. "It's just not the right setting for love!"

Ayen . . .

From page H1

she looked great, and could sing, act and dance with flair and distinction.

Standout

Ayen was a standout in the centennial show, which was a singular success. Soon after, we were chosen to direct a weekly TV show that needed a talented ingenue who would be the male lead star's love interest. Since we liked working with Ayen, we asked her to audition for the plum part.

However, it turned out that the show's producers had tapped other lovely young singers to audition for the role. Some of them were already popular entertainers, so it looked like Ayen would have a hard

AYEN/ H4

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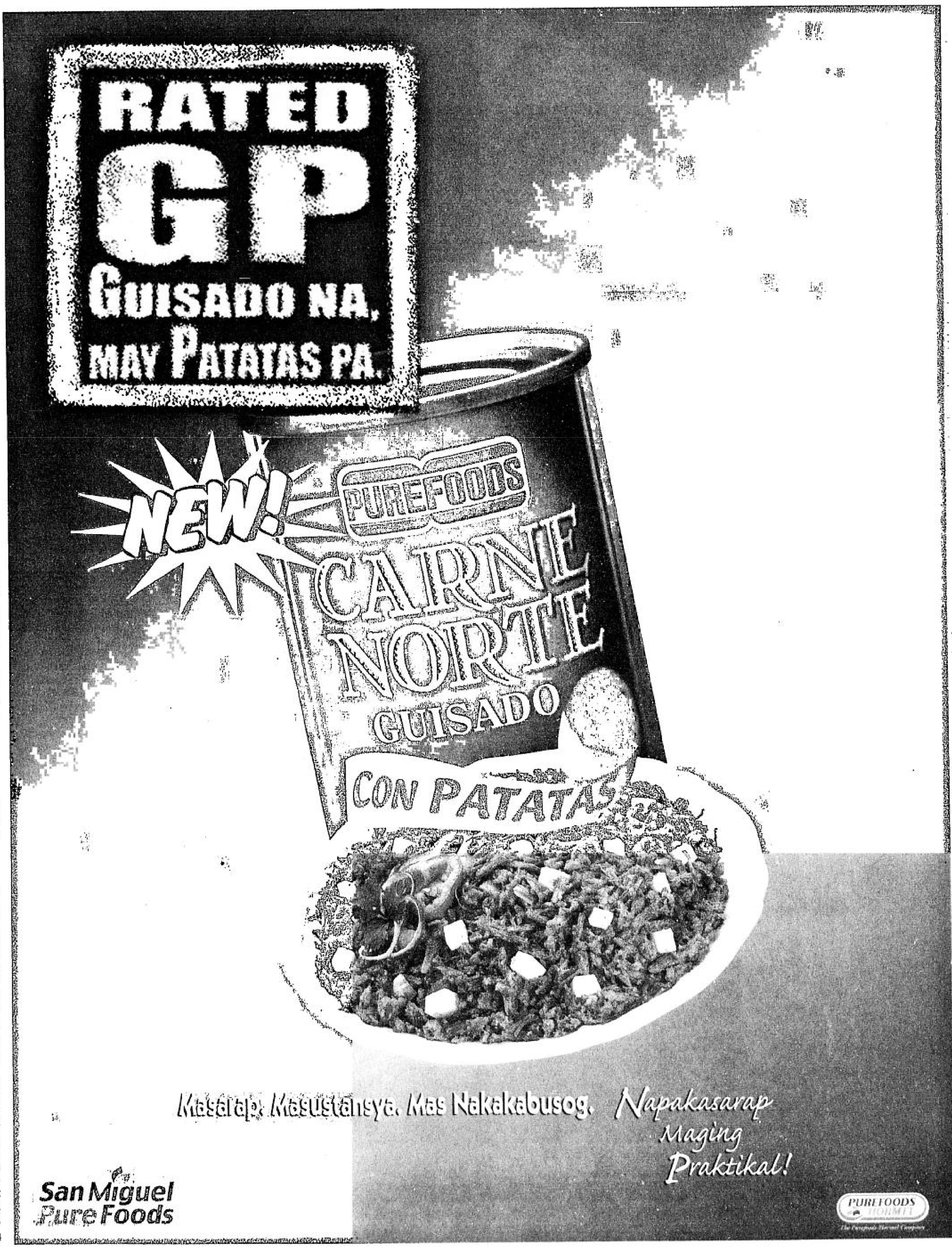
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Movie fan finally meets his favorite star

THE AUTHOR (left) with Franklin and Barbara.

By Behn Cervantes

IT WAS a cool spring day in Amsterdam. Franklin Bobadilla, a petite Filipino ballet dancer with the Scapino Ensemble, a company that focused on ballet for children, was waiting for a streetcar. He had donned a fashionably long trench coat with its collar stylishly put up for effect.

Svelte and slim

His straight black hair was up to his shoulders, so svelte and slim Franklin appeared quite androgynous, what with that maxi trench coat.

An American tourist and his family approached him and asked if perchance Franklin spoke English. When the mild-manner Asian answered in the affirmative, he asked for directions, and Franklin gladly gave him the needed information. The American profusely thanked the smiling, mellow-voiced Asian. He instructed his children to thank the kind "lady," then asked, "By the way, what is your name?"

Not wanting to embarrass the confused American, Franklin quickly decided to come up with a lady's name. His favorite Hollywood actress being Audrey Hepburn, he said, "Barbara." Why Barbara? Because Franklin's favorite Philippine star was Hepburn look-alike Barbara Perez.

Cute story

Franklin related the cute story to me when I visited him in Amsterdam in 1978. Naturally, when I came back to Manila, I immediately told Barbara the amusing yarn. When he came for a visit a few years later, I tried to get Franklin and Barbara together, but their schedules didn't jibe.

About a year ago, he mailed care of me a couple of original film posters of Barbara's 1963 Hollywood starrer "No Man Is an Island" with Jeffrey Hunter. He had found them in an Amsterdam store that specialized in such items. Naturally, Barbara was thrilled and most grateful for the colored and life-size poster, as well as a smaller one that I handed over to her. Both had text written in Dutch. It was time they got together, but again their schedules did not work out.

A couple of weeks ago, Franklin called me from his parents' home in Bulacan. He said he had a few more mementos for Barbara. This time Barbara set up a lunch so she could finally thank and meet Franklin personally. We agreed to meet in a Japanese restaurant. I arrived early and reserved a room. An excited Franklin arrived soon after.

Thrilled

He was obviously thrilled about meeting his "idol" of many decades. Bamba came with Anna, her eldest daughter, at the appointed time, a sign of the true professional that she has always been.

Franklin immediately started to regale the group with his earliest memories of Barbara. He said that he first saw her at a press conference. "You had on a wide-sleeved polka-dotted blouse," Franklin remembered. "Red dots!" Bamba confirmed.

He also saw a number of her early films, including her debut in "Chabacano" with the late Rod Navarro. He relished identifying her co-stars in other Sampaguita films, and supplying trivia that only a die-hard fan would remember.

He recalled details of her Hollywood visit, when she was flown to the film capital for post-production publicity after "No Man Is an Island" wrapped up shooting here. Even Barbara had forgotten many of them. Obviously, Franklin was one heck of a Perez fan and the years had not diluted his excitement over Barbara. His fond memories remained alive and kicking.

New mementos

He then handed over the new mementos to his favorite star, who promised him that there would be a special room for those souvenirs "when I build my new home." Anna and I volunteered our suggestions on how best to highlight the rare souvenirs. However, we soon realized we were there as their audience, because Franklin and Barbara had many more years to talk about.

When the lunch was over, Franklin's face was still flushed with excitement. The dream of meeting and knowing his idol of many years had been fulfilled. He finally met the star whose name he "borrowed" when that American tourist asked him for his name so many years ago!

Barbara too had traveled back in time, back to those golden Sampaguita days and her rare Hollywood experience. She was also astounded that she had affected someone in such a profound manner, and for such a long time. I am sure there are many more Franklins out there whose lives were acutely affected by endearing role models like Barbara Perez!

Ayen Munji explores new musical horizons

From page H3

time clinching the part.

But talent *will* out, even if it's new and relatively untested on TV, so the producers agreed with us and chose Ayen over the better-known auditionees.

True-blue princess

After that, however, Ayen disappeared from the musical-theater scene. It was only later that we learned that she had gone to Brunei to sing, had won the heart of the Sultan's brother, married him, and became a true-blue princess.

We got word about all this from a close friend of Ayen who asked us for copies of tapes of our shows with her, and swore us to secrecy about her immensely wonderful fortune. Dutifully, we agreed.

From time to time, we would hear about Ayen's fairytale life as a princess, her travels all over the world, her great wealth, etc. To us, however, she remained warm and simple.

Then came her big "Rama at Sita" musical at the UP Theater. When we met Ayen again after some 10 years, we saw that she had become more sophisticated, but she was still basically self-effacing. She expressed her gratitude for the training she had gotten from our shows, and asked us for scripts for her future projects.

New and better phase

After she left her prince and married Franco Laurel, we saw that Ayen was trying to get away from her inaccessible "princess" image, and we tried to help her let the public know that a new and better phase in her personal and professional life was starting.

Tonight at the Mandarin hotel's Captain's Bar, Ayen's new phase comes to a head with a special concert designed to help her reach out to new audiences, to explore other musical horizons and to prove that she's got much more going for her than her fairytale past.

Yes, the princess has become queen of her own life, and a musical star in her own right. Janno Gibbs and Agot Isidro will help her make that point beyond question. We're glad that, after everything that's happened to her, Ayen has remained true to her theater and show biz calling. Call 638-7776.

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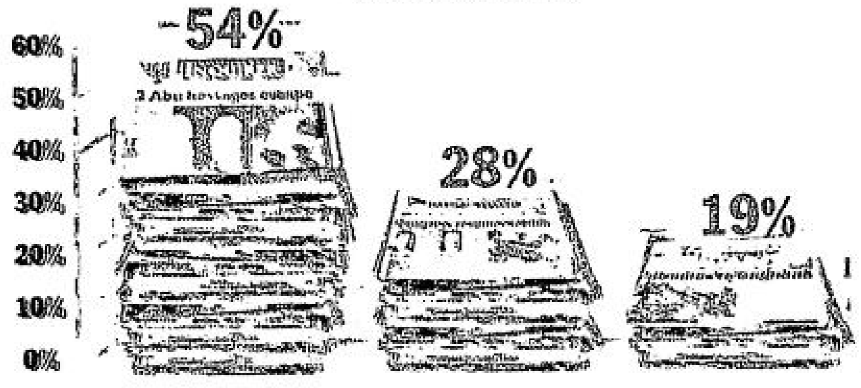

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SATURDAY Special

BLADES. Co-starring with Antonio Banderas in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico." AP

Blades finally achieves international stardom

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—Ruben Blades' idea of having a nice, relaxing evening is curling up with a good book—about genetics.

Reality

"What is fascinating to me is that it holds the key to understanding our reality," Blades said in an interview from his Los Angeles-area home. "I think that we're on the way to understanding exactly who and what we are, and what we're capable of doing as a species. I find that fascinating."

Most people would find Blades' life just as fascinating. Born in Panama, the 54-year-old actor-singer moved to New York City in the '70s to escape political upheaval in his country. He got a job in the mailroom of the famed Fania salsa music label.

In short time, he became part of the Fania All-Stars, and collaborated with Willie Colon on the groundbreaking, platinum salsa disc "Siembra." Later, he launched a successful career in acting, and has garnered two Emmy Award nominations.

Blades—who holds a degree from Harvard Law School—made an unsuccessful bid for the presidency of Panama in 1994. He says he won't run again, but plans to move back to Panama and become more involved in the politics of his homeland.

Salsa and other genres

He won his fifth Grammy Award this year—this one for best world music album for "Mundo." The album, sung in both English and Spanish, mixes salsa and other genres, including Celtic music.

Blades' new movie, "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," also starring Antonio Banderas, Johnny Depp and Salma Hayek, will open in September. His previous films include "The Milagro Beanfield War" (1988), "Cradle Will Rock" (1999) and this year's "Assassination Tango." Q and A:

What kind of music did you listen to when you were growing up in Panama?

Panama is right smack in the middle of America . . . When you turned

BLADES/13

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WITH so many young hopefuls now storming the gates of show biz companies, making it in entertainment has become an even tougher challenge than it used to be. So, we're happy for the few people who do manage to make it:

In the United States, Goldie Hawn's daughter, Kate Hudson, has graduated from portraying the ingenue in "Almost Famous" to playing the female lead in her new film "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

In the romantic comedy, she plays a columnist who wants to prove that a girl can dump a hapless beau in no time flat. The columnist's guinea pig is played by Matthew McConaughey, whom most women would be loath to get rid off!

For her part, Carrie-Anne Moss returns as Trinity in "The Matrix Reloaded." Since the first "Matrix" movie did so much for her career, Moss gives its sequel everything she's got.

She even agreed to train for six months before shooting started, so she would be up to the production's rigorous physical demands. She was particularly challenged by a motorcycle scene that required her to maneuver the vehicle through a narrow passageway at top speed.

In "So Close," *two* female action comers are given their chance to shine. Shu Qi and Zhao Wei play formidable sisters who have to fight a powerful computer mogul and his lethal entourage. For her part, Karen Mok portrays a resourceful cop who's also drawn into the battle.

On local TV, the Ja-Boom Twins of "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" are featured in a music video that popularizes the Hokie Pokie, a new dance craze. In connection with this, Star Records and Ever Gotesco Malls are running the Hokie Pokie Dance Contest, which is open to dancers 10 to 15 years old.

Elimination rounds: May 24 at Grand Central; May 25 at Ever Ortigas; May 31 at the Manila Plaza; and June 7 at Ever Commonwealth. The Grand Finals are on June 13.

Finally, five young beauties have been chosen as the image models of the Bambini products of the Rogemson Company: Gayle Valencia, 18, stage and TV actress; Yvette Dianne Lim, 19, magazine cover girl and model; Paula Rosales, 17, commercial model; Jenny Gomez, 19, UP sophomore; and Jenny Mercado, 15, singer and actress.

HUDSON. Female lead in "How to Lose a Guy in 10 days."

MOSS. Measures up to the rigorous demands of "The Matrix Reloaded."

Free tickets

Tickets for Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards Preview Party at 5 p.m. on May 25 will be distributed on May 17 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

Nickoledeon is giving away 350 pairs of tickets to the preview party, which features live performances from Playhouse Kids and the boy band 1728, plus games and fun activities.

Just bring a 1 kg wrapper of Swift Sweet 'n' Juicy Hotdog to Glorietta today from 10 a.m. onward to get free tickets—first come, first served.

Discovery Channel videos

Videos of the Discovery Channel's exciting and entertaining documentaries are being distributed locally by MagnaVision Home Video.

Topics include science, technology, origin of life, amazing kids, planets, animals, travel and adventure. Discovery videos are available at record bars and other outlets nationwide.

'8 Mile'

"8 Mile," the acclaimed rapper drama starring Eminem, will be screened for free at 8 p.m. today at The Fort's open field, as part of the 2003 MTV Movie Awards Movie Madness promo of Globe Gentxt.

There will also be games, free henna tattoo, fortune telling, foot massage and face painting. "The Ring" will be screened on May 23.

This series of movie screenings is being held in connection with the forthcoming 2003 MTV Movie Awards on May 31 at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles California, USA.

JA-BOOM TWINS. Featured in new dance video that popularizes the Hokie Pokie.

BAMBINI MODELS. From left, Rosales, Gomez, Lim, Valencia and Mercado.

SHAP'S founder and director Joey Kierulf (center), with Lorna Gonzalez (left) and Rose Villamor

Education is in his blood

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

SHAP (Sacred Heart Academy of Pasig) aims for excellence in its school curriculum. Who would ever have thought Jose "Joey" Antonio Kierulf would turn out to be such an impressive school director? Well, he had it in his blood since his mother was a schoolteacher and she founded the first Sacred Heart Academy in Manila.

New school

Joey managed the school in Retiro while his sister Jojo Kierulf-Zabarte built up her own Sacred Heart Academy in Novaliches (SHAN). Next thing I knew, Joey was showing me around a very handsome new school, the Sacred Heart Academy of Pasig.

Three years ago, Joey had students only up to first year high. Now, he has them up to fourth year. And he has drawn up programs with Mrs. Rose Villamor that make the school's curriculum better than ever.

MOU with Eduquest

To improve its instruction in reading and math literacy through innovative instructional models, SHAP and Eduquest have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Eduquest will provide technology for reading and math literacy progress assessment, while SHAP shall designate classes, teachers and educational managers for the program.

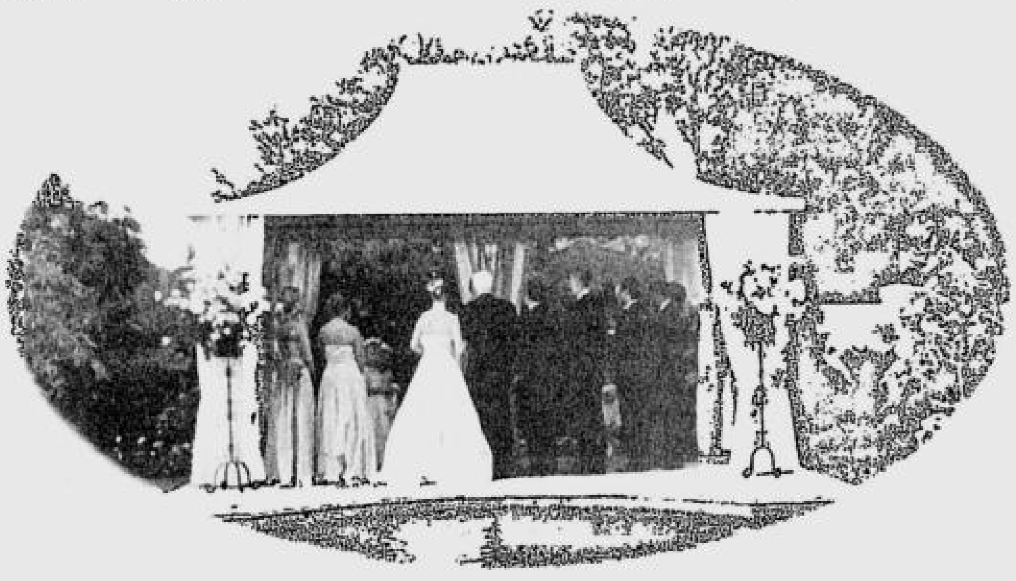
After evaluating the program, the research group shall recommend the full integration of the program into the school for 2003-2006.

Other programs and activities

SHAP also joins competitive activities such as the editorial writing competition conducted by the National Capital Region, where several SHAP students copped several awards. The school placed second in the IT Olympiad sponsored by the AMA Ortigas Campus in 2002.

But it is not all work, because the children also compete in chess and basketball games. To sharpen their skills, SHAP teachers attend seminars. To round out the students' exposure, Principal Lorna Gonzales engages them in outreach activities, with the Student Council spearheading the project.

Sacred Heart Academy-Pasig is now open for registration for prep, grade and high school. Call 641-2369 and 641-2264. For Sacred Heart Academy-Novaliches and La Loma call 939-1712 or 939-2154 and 741-5371 or 741-5374.



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Ricky Lee honored for his exceptional scripts

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE glad that the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino have decided to award their 2003 Gawad Unrian for Lifetime Achievement to Ricky Lee. The award honors the ace screenwriter for the 90 film scripts he's written in the past 30 years, some of which have won awards, including three Urian trophies (for the screenplays of "Salome," "Jaguar" and "Gumapang Ka sa Lusak.")

Importance

The special Urian also underscores the importance of screenwriting in general on the local filmmaking scene. Very often, scriptwriters are taken for granted in these parts, so it's wonderful that the Manunuri are honoring a screenwriter like Ricky for his body of work.

Let's hope that this special award will encourage film people to give other outstanding screenwriters the importance and gratitude that they deserve.

Some scriptwriters wonder what makes Ricky Lee so special. Aside from his talent, vision and commitment, we fell that Ricky's ace is his close personal as well as professional relationship with many of the country's best film directors through the years.

Memorable films

Thus, he's written exceptional scripts for memorable films like "Himala" (Ishmael Bernal), "Moral" (Marilou Diaz-Abaya), "Jaguar" (Lino Brocka), and "The Dolzura Cortez Story" (Laurice Guillen).

He's also worked with younger filmmakers on some of their own outstanding movies, so his influence for good on the local film scene continues to be felt.

Adding further to this influence are Ricky's screenwriting workshops, which have produced a host of talented new writers. Also influential are Ricky's book on the craft of screenwriting, "Trip to Quiapo," and his script compilation, "Brutal/ Salome."

Sad lot

Despite his achievements, however whenever we talk to Ricky, he keeps rueing the generally sad lot of scriptwriters in this country. He hopes that much-needed reforms can be instituted, so writers won't have to suffer so much at the hands of some film people who don't respect the scripts they write.

Ricky may be in a relatively exalted position on the local film scene, but he reveals that he has had his share of artistic disappointments. And he says that some of his best works remain unproduced to this day, because producers deem them "uncommercial."

Sometime ago, we met up with Ricky on the set of Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Moral 2," and we observed that he continued to be concerned for the welfare of other screenwriters.

LEE. Hopes that much-needed reforms can be instituted.

Collective power

That's why we hope that, now that he's being honored with a Lifetime Achievement award by the Urian (tonight at the Camp Aguinaldo Theater), Ricky can organize the country's screenwriters in a new, more active group that will use its collective power to work for reforms.

Those much-needed reforms include more equitable compensation, better contractual terms, greater respect for the integrity of screenplays, real rather than merely promised breaks for new writers, and less vicious competition among screenwriters.

There's so much work to be done, but with ace writers like Ricky Lee leading the way, there's a good chance of at least some of those reforms finally being put in place.

"HIMALA." Lee wrote the screenplay for this acclaimed Nora Aunor starrer, directed by Ishmael Bernal.

"SALOME." Gina Alajar and Dennis Roldan in Laurice Guillen's psycho-drama.

Blades . . .

From page 11

on the radio in those days, they didn't have the demographics that determine what stations are going to be playing. In those days, you'd hear *everything*.

You've been frustrated as an actor because you're often offered stereotypical roles. Is that changing?

No, not really. I don't think necessarily that it's changed for everyone. I think that there's still not enough opportunities, and I still believe that certain roles like the ones that I've played in the last four films that I've done are not the rule, they are the exception. Well, at least my more recent films have helped me finally achieve international stardom.

Did people take you seriously as a presidential candidate in Panama?

The people who supported my work as a musician felt good enough about me to give me their support; they were less prejudiced.

Does political activism help or hurt an entertainer's career?

I don't think it necessarily helps or hurts you. I think it just creates reactions. You have to weigh both and then find out what the outcome is.

What about genetics fascinates you?

The argument of racism should disappear through genetics. We all come from the source. It's been proven beyond doubt. Instead of racism, what we really have are hatreds and prejudices that are born out of ignorance and are a direct consequence of cultural differences. I think that is a formidable argument against racism.

I believe the time will come when that point of common origin is stressed, and we'll be able to work in solidarity, not the way we've been working today. *AP*

PESO POWER
P48=$1
55
54
5

The currency rollback that gives you the power to buy more of the world's best brands is back!

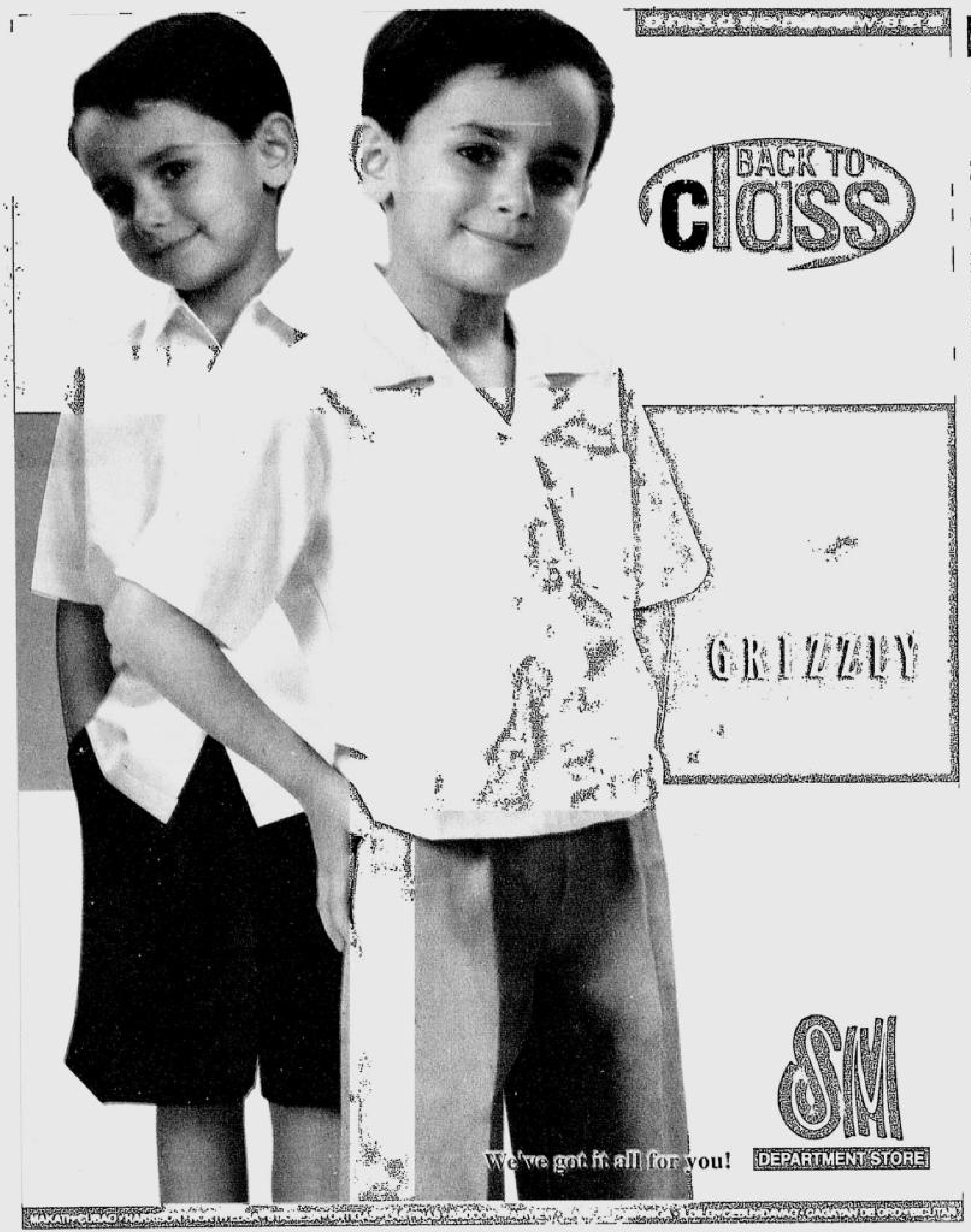
Peso Power will run from May 1 to 31, 2003 at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall and from May 5 to June 4, 2003 at Duty Free Philippines Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Lahug.

OFWs and Balikbayans can now shop within 15 days upon arrival.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

The discount on dollar purchases will be based on the percentage difference between the official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas rate of the day and P48.

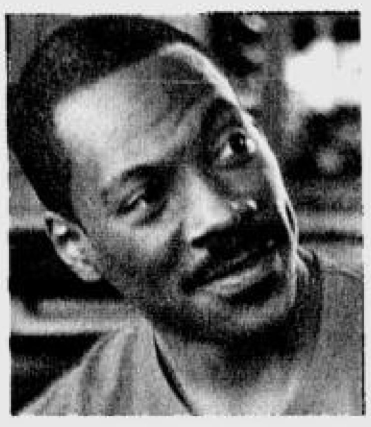
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-176. Series of 2003. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No. 196. Series of 2003.



'X2' races to $149M at US box office

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—"X2: X-Men United" enjoyed its second—and likely last—weekend as the most popular movie at the North American box office, while Eddie Murphy basked in his first hit in a while with "Daddy Day Care." According to studio estimates issued on Sunday, "X2" sold $41.4 million worth of tickets in the three days beginning May 9.



MURPHY. Scores a hit with "Daddy Day Care."

Family comedy

The family comedy "Daddy Day Care" opened at No. 2 with $27.6 million. Next weekend's champion will likely be "The Matrix Reloaded," a highly anticipated sci-fi thriller starring Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne.

"X2," a sequel based on the popular Marvel comic books about a pack of ostracized mutant savants, has grossed $149 million after 10 days. It is fast closing in on the $157 million total of its 2000 predecessor, "X-Men."

High expectations

"Daddy Day Care," a $60 million movie in which Murphy plays an out-of-work executive who opens a babysitting service, exceeded its studio's high expectations.

Murphy's last big film, 2001's "Dr. Doolittle 2," opened with $25 million in 2001 and finished with about $115 million.

Last year, Murphy starred in three flops, "Showtime," "The Adventures of Pluto Nash" and "I Spy," which together earned about $75 million domestically.

Columbia, a unit of Sony Corp., boasted two other pictures in the top five. The ensemble thriller "Identity" was at No. 4 with $6.3 million, followed by the comedy "Anger Management" with $5.5 million. Their respective totals rose to $39.2 million and $122.9 million.

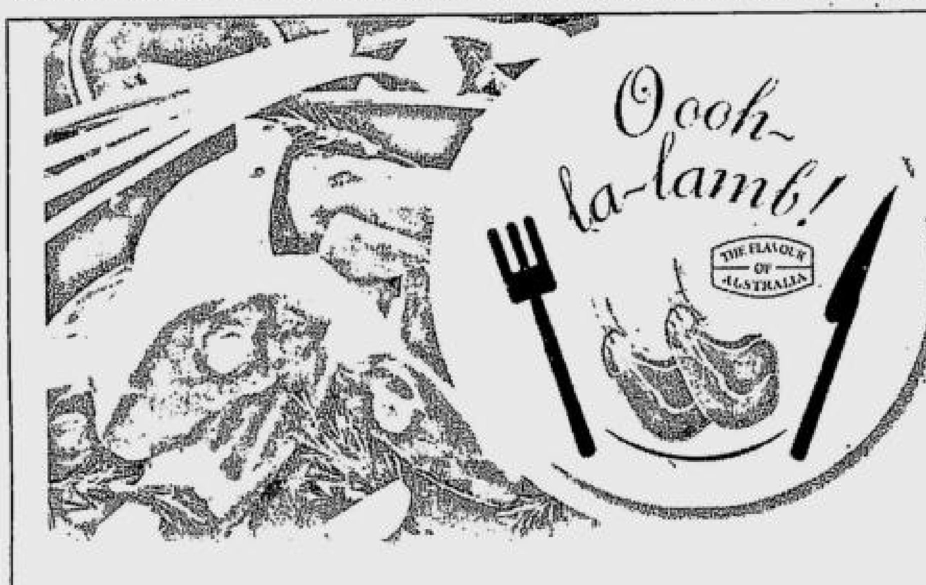
The other picture in the top five was "The Lizzie McGuire Movie," which ranked No. 3 in its second weekend with $7.8 million.

Folk music spoof

The top 10 contained one other new entrant, the folk music spoof, "A Mighty Wind," which jumped seven places to No. 7 with $2.9 million in its first weekend of moderately wide release in 765 theaters. The film, marking a reunion of sorts by the stars of the 1984 cult hit "This Is Spinal Tap," has earned $9.4 million after four weekends. It was released by Warner Bros. Pictures, a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc.

Besides "The Matrix Reloaded," the other wide new release next weekend is "Down With Love," a contemporary take on the old Rock Hudson-Doris Day romantic comedies. The film, starring Ewan McGregor and Renee Zellweger, opened in one New York theater this weekend with a strong $44,098, said Fox.

Despite the strong performances of "X2" and "Daddy Day Care," overall ticket sales dropped, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations. The top 12 films grossed $103 million, down 27 percent from last weekend, and down 11 percent from the year-ago weekend, when "Spider-Man" was tops for a second round. *Reuters*



Who says you have to eat out to enjoy Australian lamb?

Those who have discovered Australian lamb swear by its tantalizing, flavoursome taste. Who can blame them? Tender, juicy Australian lamb has been hailed the world over by chefs and diners alike. Now, more and more people are discovering that preparing Australian lamb at home is as easy as it is enjoyable. Australian lamb's versatility ensures that you will never run out of creative meal ideas. Lamb Kebab? Lamb Adobo? Roast Lamb Leg? Lamb Salpicao? Lamb Caldereta? The list is as limitless as your imagination.

This May, 40 restaurants, hotels and retail chains are taking part in "Oooh-La-Lamb!" --- a month-long Australian Lamb Festival. Chefs of these select restaurants and hotels are offering specially created Australian lamb dishes for diners. Top retail chains **Shopwise**, **PriceSmart**, **Monterey** and **Santis Delicatessen** are offering Australian lamb cuts.

SHOPWISE You will find that you have more reasons to rejoice at **Shopwise**, where the Australian Lamb Festival sets off with a scrumptious, satisfying start. Here, you will be sure to find everything you need under one roof at everyday low prices --- and more! Shopwise offers you affordable prices, a fun shopping ambience, one-stop-shopping convenience and an excellent fresh food department.

For the whole month of May, you can avail of great discounts and buy-one-take-one offers on lamb products --- all directly imported from Australia. Aside from offering a wide range of quality goods, Shopwise lets you have your pick from a variety of Australian lamb cuts: leg, shank, rack and shoulder. Australian lamb may be sampled on selected dates while Australian lamb recipes will be given away. Shopwise has three branches located at Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang, Pasong Tamo cor. VitoCruz Ext., Makati and Libis, Quezon City.

PRICESMART Membership Shopping A volume-driven US-style membership warehouse club that offers high quality and high value products and services at low, low prices, **PriceSmart** is particularly known for its excellent fresh food section which features Australian lamb and freshly flown-in chilled Australian beef. Australian lamb cuts are being offered in all four PriceSmart outlets located in Fort Bonifacio Global City, Ortigas Extension in Cainta, Congressional Road in QC, and along the Alabang-Zapote Road in Alabang.

MONTEREY **Monterey**, the food company that offers fresh-chilled and marinated meats as well as ready-to-cook meals, has added Australian lamb to its line-up. The move is in line with Monterey's goal of providing consumers a wide variety of meat choices that are readily available through the Monterey Neighborhood and Supermarket Meatshops.

SANTIS Delicatessen Australian lamb can also be purchased at any of the eight outlets of **Santis Delicatessen**, the most sophisticated deli shop in the Philippines catering high quality food, fresh vegetables, cheese and wines and other specialties.

All four retail chains are offering FREE-RANGE Australian lamb cuts. Produced from animals that graze freely in Australia's lush pastures, the FREE-RANGE AUSTRALIAN LAMB LABEL assures you that the lamb you are purchasing has the wholesome, flavourful goodness of nature at its best. The Australian Mark of Integrity means that the lamb is delivered directly from Australia. And because Australia's strict quality and hygiene control standards are among the highest in the world, you can be assured that the lamb delivered to the Philippines is safe.

FREE-RANGE AUSTRALIAN LAMB THE SAFE NATURAL CHOICE

M rk f

Fully-trimmed, these Australian lamb cuts are convenient, pan-ready and more versatile than ever. Most fully-trimmed cuts also contain less than 10% fat. Did you know that their cholesterol content is even lower than that of egg and chicken? Australian lamb is also a major source of energy, protein, iron, zinc, niacin and riboflavin.

Australian lamb is clean and hygienic so it does not need to be washed before storing or cooking. Frozen lamb should never be thawed at room temperature or soaked in water because doing so will drain the meat juices and cause bacteria to breed. The trick is to thaw the meat in the refrigerator overnight before cooking to get the best out of your lamb meat.

Some Australian lamb cuts are more tender than others. Different types of cooking methods increase this tenderness and enhance its flavour. The following table provides a guide to suitable cooking methods for various cuts:

Australian Lamb Cuts	Suitable for dry cooking	Suitable for wet cooking
Lamb Leg	✓	✓
Lamb Shoulder	✓	✓
Lamb Cutlet	✓	
Lamb Rack	✓	
Lamb Shortloin	✓	
Lamb Shank	✓ – roast/bake only	✓
Lamb Neck/Cubes		✓

Dry Cooking = pan-frying, oven roasting, baking, grilling, barbecue.
Requires shorter cooking time.
Wet Cooking = stewing, braising, pot roasting.
Requires longer cooking time.

For lamb recipes, visit
www.themainmeal.com.au
Contact details:
Tel: (632) 634-6236
Fax: (632) 634-6238
Email:
mlaphil@info.com.ph
www.mla.com.au

MEAT & LIVESTOCK
AUSTRALIA

Don’t call me beautiful, Monica Bellucci pleads

Bellucci may not have gone looking for beauty and stardom, but now that they both have gotten hold of her, she may find that some “illnesses” are hard to shake. *AFP*

BELLUCCI. Has her sights set on loftier goals.

> ‘Being a star doesn’t mean anything. You can become a star from one day to the next, but that doesn’t mean that you’re an artist. And I hope to become a good artist’

By Marc Burleigh

CANNES, France—Monica Bellucci isn’t beautiful and isn’t a star—or at least that’s what the stunning Italian actress would prefer you to believe as she opens the Cannes film festival.

Instead, the raven-haired 34-year-old has her sights set on loftier goals: to be taken seriously as an artist and to develop her soul.

State of being

“Beauty is a state of being,” Bellucci told a small group of journalists on the eve of the 12-day festival.

“If beauty exists, you have to wait for it to pass. It’s like an illness, beauty,” she said.

For the millions of people who watched her officially declare the Cannes film festival open, though, there was no escaping the thought that the looks that made her a world-class model before turning to cinema have not deserted her.

Nor will the audiences who go to see “The Matrix Reloaded”—the long-awaited sequel to the sci-fi blockbuster —be able to turn their eyes from Bellucci’s strategically bared body.

Talent

But for the actress, such focus on her appearance overlooks the efforts she is making to bring her talent to bear on roles.

And it’s for that reason Bellucci has created an eclectic track record in films, zigzagging from Hollywood offers such as this and the next “Matrix” films, to much more intimate European productions in France and Italy.

“Being a star doesn’t mean anything. You can become a star from one day to the next, but that doesn’t mean that you are an artist,” she said.

“And I hope to become a good artist,” she said.

That ambition has seen Bellucci pile project upon project in recent years. From small roles in Italian films, she managed to win leading parts in France, and finally made her US breakthrough in 2000’s “Under Suspicion” opposite Gene Hackman.

Since then, directors have come looking for her, even creating characters specifically for her, such as in “Tears of the Sun,” the action flick with Bruce Willis that came out this year.

In “The Matrix Reloaded” and “The Matrix Revolutions,” which were shot at the same time, she plays Persephone, a sensual figure in a digital desert who takes an interest in Neo, the gravity-defying hero of the cult series, played by Keanu Reeves.

“Keanu Reeves is a very private person, but he has a big heart,” she said of her co-star.

Enviable position

With offers now flowing in—“you have no idea how many I turn down”—Bellucci is in the enviable position of being able to cherry-pick her way through her career.

But for every big-budget Hollywood production, she also performs in smaller unsettling films that stretch her as an actress.

Last year, she starred with her husband, French actor Vincent Cassel, in “Irreversible”—a harrowing tale of violence in which she does a rape scene shocking in its verisimilitude. The film, which was in competition in Cannes, prompted several people to walk out of the screening.

Her next film is just as unusual, and just as likely to be as far from being a crowd-pleaser as possible.

In “The Passion,” which is directed by Mel Gibson, Monica Bellucci plays Mary Magdalene in a story of the last hours of Jesus Christ’s life as He is crucified. The film, which Gibson has said he has wanted to make for years, is filmed in two dead languages, Latin and Aramic—without subtitles.

Then comes another French film with Cassel, “Secret Agents,” which Bellucci is still working on.

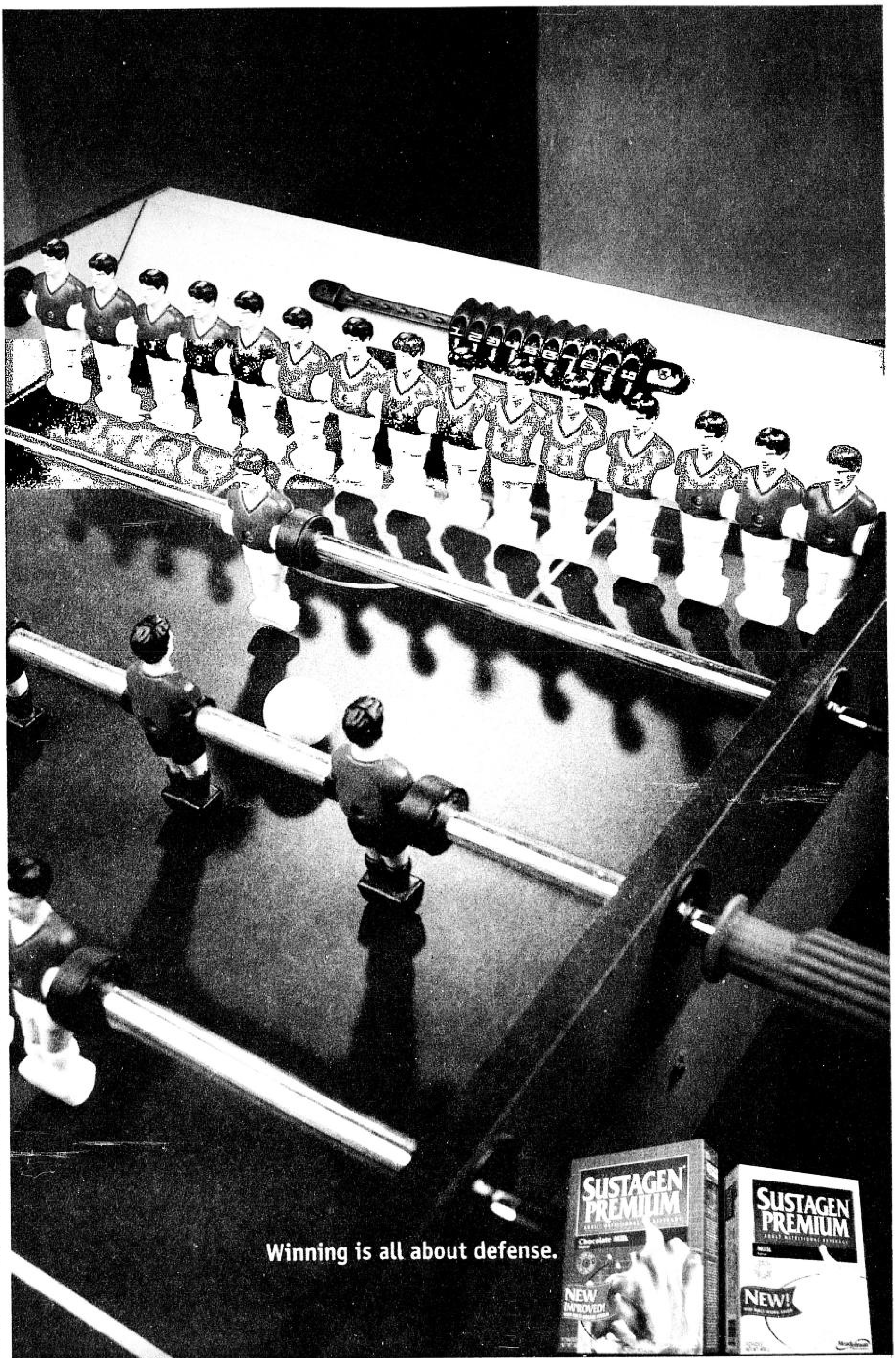
Full diary

Her acting, she said, did not tire her at all, even with such a full diary.

“The most exhausting times are when I travel, or these interviews,” she said, dipping one sugar into her espresso to fight off jet-lag.

“But the moment when I’m on the set, I have to act, and I forget everything else.” Nevertheless, when “Secret Agents” is out of the way, Bellucci plans to take a break.

Having made it so far up the acting ladder so quickly, she figures she now deserves a vacation, “a very long vacation.” The question is: Will the directors, the fans, and above all her own ambition to push herself ever further let her rest?



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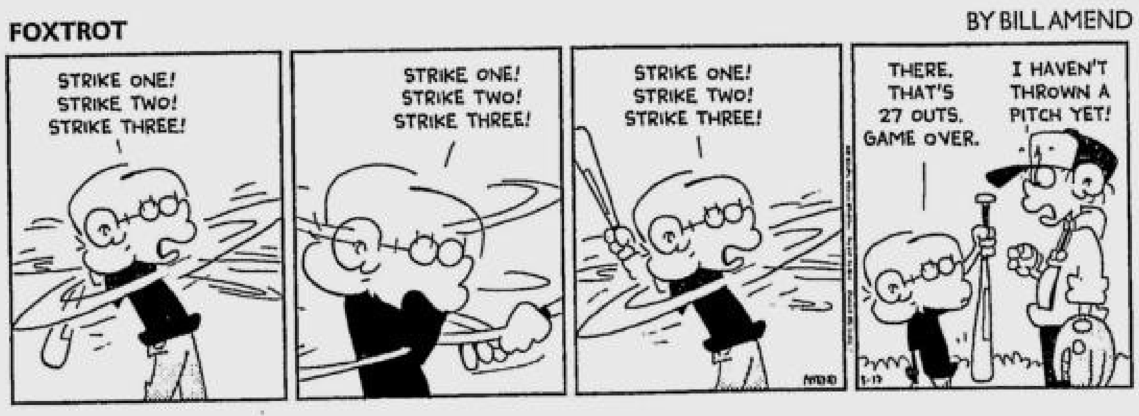
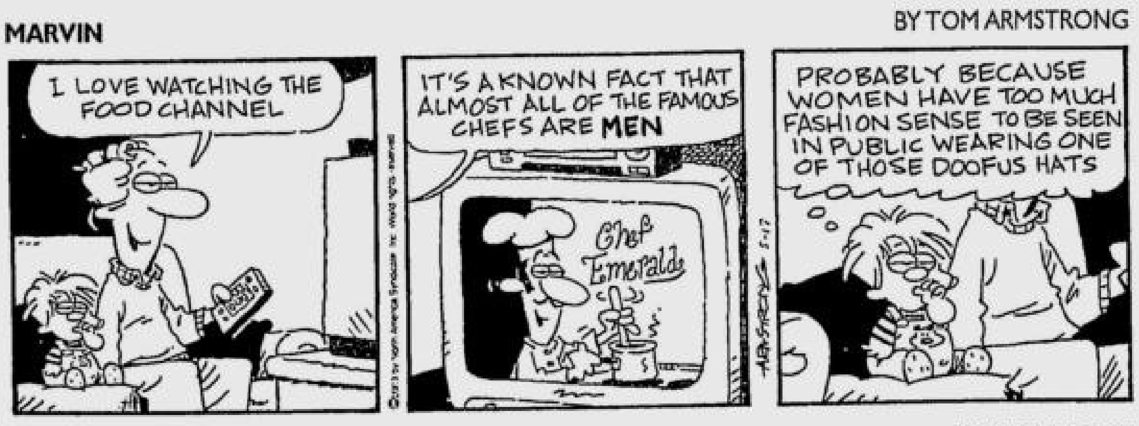
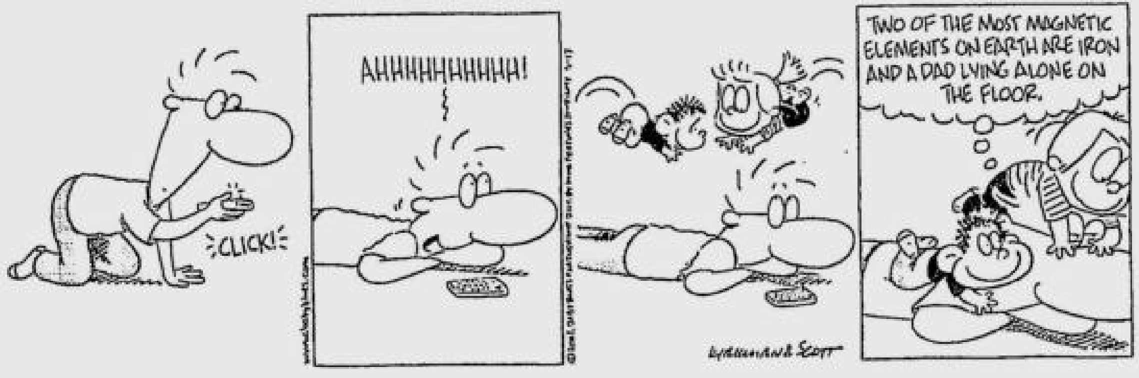
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


STRIKE ONE! STRIKE TWO! STRIKE THREE!
STRIKE ONE! STRIKE TWO! STRIKE THREE!
STRIKE ONE! STRIKE TWO! STRIKE THREE!
THERE. THAT'S 27 OUTS. GAME OVER.
I HAVEN'T THROWN A PITCH YET!
AMEND
5-17

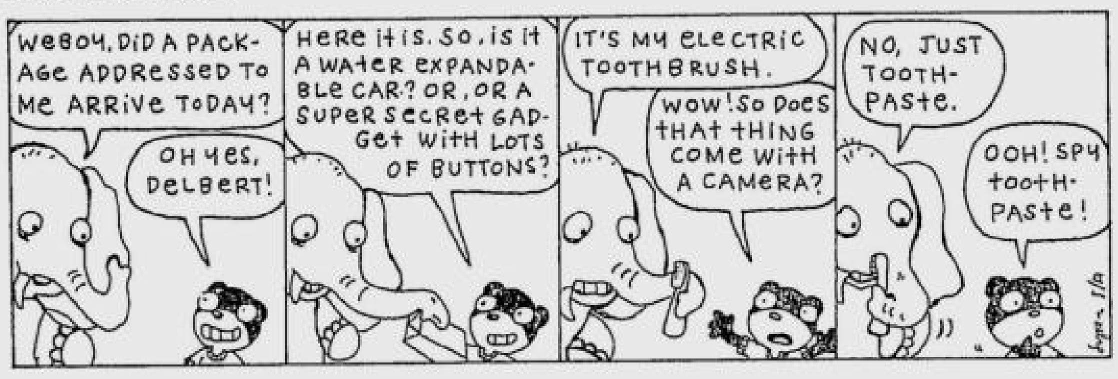
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I LOVE WATCHING THE FOOD CHANNEL
IT'S A KNOWN FACT THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE FAMOUS CHEFS ARE MEN
Chef Emerald
PROBABLY BECAUSE WOMEN HAVE TOO MUCH FASHION SENSE TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC WEARING ONE OF THOSE DOOFUS HATS
ARMSTRONG 5-17

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


CLICK!
AHHHHHHHHHH!
TWO OF THE MOST MAGNETIC ELEMENTS ON EARTH ARE IRON AND A DAD LYING ALONE ON THE FLOOR.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY, DID A PACKAGE ADDRESSED TO ME ARRIVE TODAY?
OH YES, DELBERT!
HERE IT IS. SO, IS IT A WATER EXPANDABLE CAR? OR, OR A SUPER SECRET GADGET WITH LOTS OF BUTTONS?
IT'S MY ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH.
WOW! SO DOES THAT THING COME WITH A CAMERA?
NO, JUST TOOTHPASTE.
OOH! SPY TOOTHPASTE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a committed idealist. You are both traditional and modern. Behind everything you do is the motivation to improve society. (You will always want to make the world a better place.) Despite your ideals, you are practical, down-to-earth and responsible. You have a wide appreciation of life. Be bold; be flexible.
Birthdate of: Bertrand Russell, mathematician; Reggie Jackson, baseball player; Chow Yun-Fat, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected perks from the government or pleasant surprises connected with large institutions (hospitals, universities, prisons) are likely today. Just expect the best.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You attract new friends to you today. That's because you're seeking this. (Admit it—you are avoiding boring people like the plague.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You want to do anything that is a change from your daily, predictable routine. Deep within you, you have a strong desire for excitement, adventure and revolution. Olé!

CANCER: (June 21 to July 22): People who are close to you today might surprise you. They seem to want more freedom and the ability to come and go as they choose. (You certainly can't be possessive today.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Unexpected opportunities to promote your good name could arise. The wealth, energy or assistance of others makes you look great today. (This is good.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You will meet somebody from a different background or culture than yours. Ironically, you'll discover that we are all more alike than not. (Everybody wants to be happy; nobody wants to suffer.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Be bold and make suggestions at work today to improve things. There's always a better mousetrap to be built. Your ideas can help others—speak up!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with a partner or close friend who wants to establish new boundaries now. If you are possessive or jealous, you will simply drive this person farther away from you.

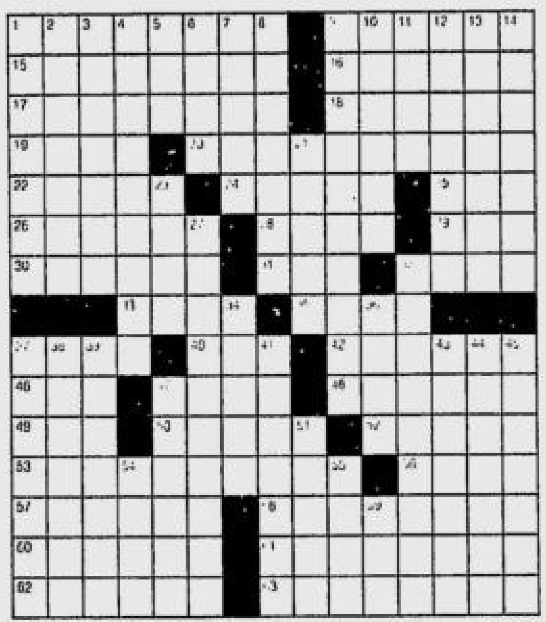
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The world can always use a better mousetrap. Today you're full of bright ideas about how to revolutionize the way things are done in your job. Speak up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Surprise romance might bring a real lift to your day. You suddenly realize that no matter how old you are, you still have what it takes. (Zowie!)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Unusual purchases, or perhaps purchases of modern art, bring excitement to your home. The introduction of new technology might be another possibility. (You're improving the place.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a great day for a little fling with friends or a party. Everybody you meet finds you interesting, and you find others interesting as well. (Perfect recipe for fun.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
5/17/03

ACROSS
1 Police officer, at times
9 Mocks
15 Coast toward which the wind blows
16 Ms. Andress
17 Possible pathogens
18 Flared
19 Actress Falco
20 Mildly ill
22 More mature
24 A votre __!
25 Mineral matter
26 Swarm member
28 Greek letters
29 Stag party attendees
30 Poisonous gas
31 Hanoi holiday
32 Beatty film
33 Yup's antonym
35 Anti-apartheid archbishop
37 Uneven hairstyle
40 Sass
42 Piano adjusters
46 ID's on jerseys
47 Mythological queen of Carthage
48 Tooth covering
49 "__ My Party"
50 Sour-tasting, old-style
52 Island off Venezuela
53 Used-goods selling site
56 Patron saint of Norway
57 Of the best quality
58 Appraise
60 Meal's main dish
61 Conscience-stricken one
62 Dealt in used goods
63 Defames

DOWN
1 Canadian province
2 More alert
3 Cookbook collection
4 Valuing very highly
5 Thar __ blows!
6 Spelling or Amos
7 Gray and Moran
8 Alter again
9 Replacement
10 French pancakes
11 Christiania, today
12 Unctuous
13 Laughed contemptuously
14 Makes blue
21 Map within a map
23 Gambling mecca
27 Copied
32 Deception
34 Duck down
36 Bluefin or yellowfin
37 Drug-detecting dog
38 Red phone
39 Concurs
41 Fattened young pigs
43 Rival with some success
44 Partial refund provider
45 Drools
47 Woman in distress
51 Angle that's not right?
54 Space starter?
55 Paper mulberry tree bark
59 Author Deighton

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	O	R	T	■	I	D	O	L	S	■	T	O	W
A	L	L	O	W	■	M	O	N	E	T	■	U	T	E
B	O	I	L	E	R	P	L	A	T	E	■	N	I	L
A	P	O	L	L	O	■	L	I	M	E	R	I	C	K
■	■	■	■	F	A	T	■	R	E	R	A	N	■	■
O	N	P	A	T	R	O	L	■	S	E	D	G	E	S
D	O	U	G	H	■	T	I	M	E	D	■	F	L	O
O	T	T	O	■	B	E	L	I	E	■	L	O	A	F
R	O	T	■	R	O	M	A	N	■	A	O	R	T	A
S	N	Y	D	E	R	■	C	U	P	C	A	K	E	S
■	■	K	I	L	N	S	■	S	I	C	■	■	■	■
J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R	■	T	O	O	K	T	O
E	L	I	■	G	R	E	A	S	Y	S	P	O	O	N
E	L	F	■	H	E	M	P	S	■	T	A	B	L	E
R	A	E	■	T	E	S	T	S	■	S	L	E	D	S

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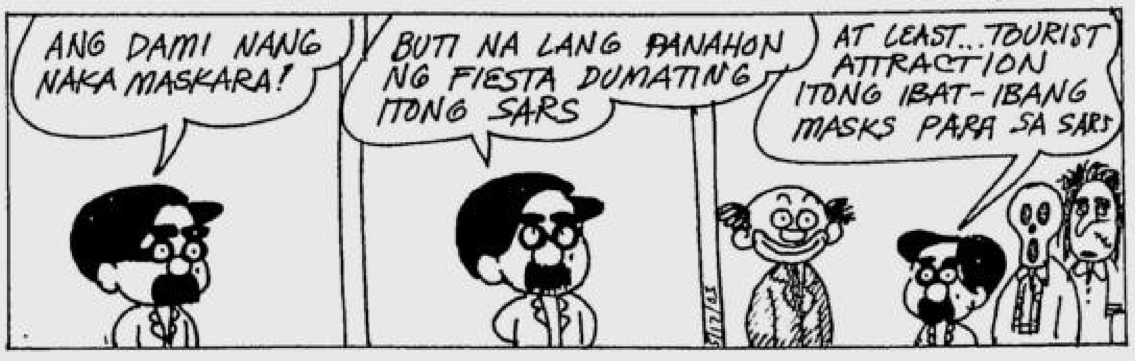
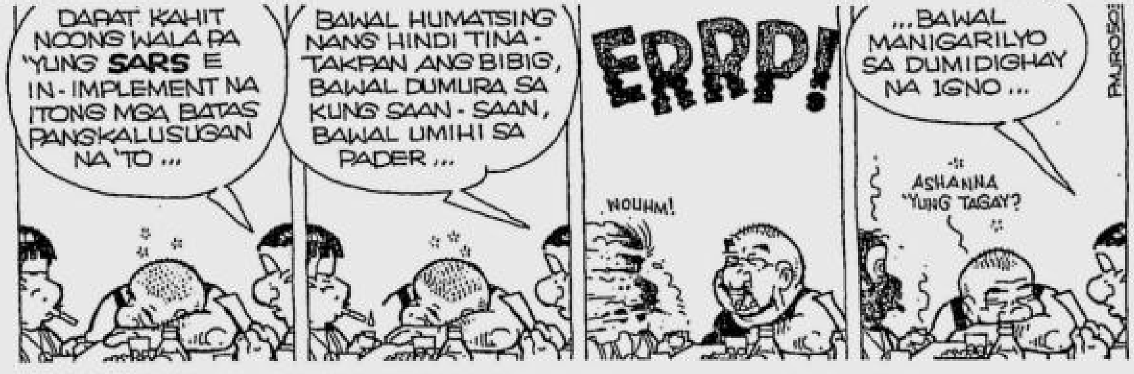
5/17/03

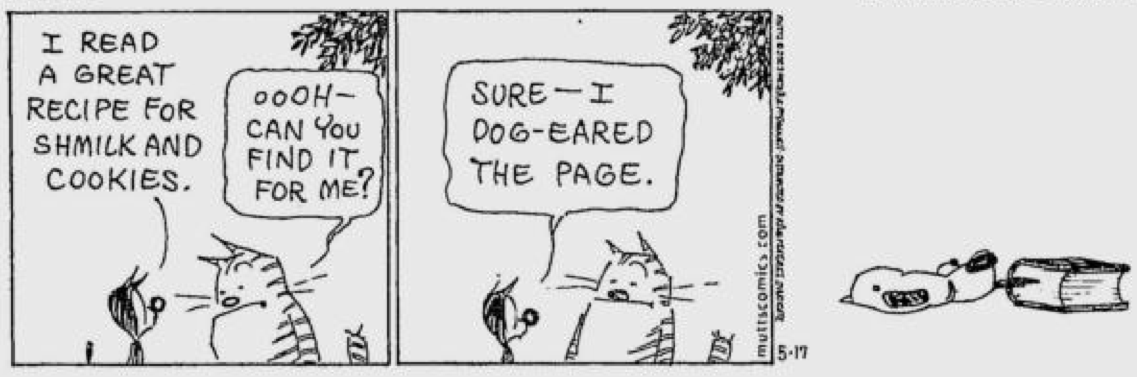
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMI NANG NAKA MASKARA!
BUTI NA LANG PANAHON NG FIESTA DUMATING ITONG SARS
AT LEAST... TOURIST ATTRACTION ITONG IBAT-IBANG MASKS PARA SA SARS

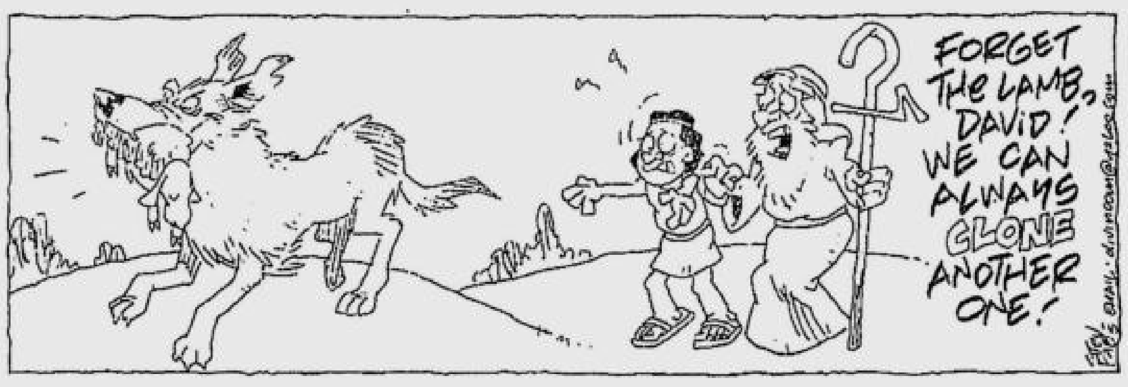
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT KAHIT NOONG WALA PA 'YUNG SARS E IN-IMPLEMENT NA ITONG MGA BATAS PANGKALUSUGAN NA 'TO ...
BAWAL HUMATSING NANG HINDI TINATAKPAN ANG BIBIG, BAWAL DUMURA SA KUNG SAAN-SAAN, BAWAL UMIHI SA PADER ...
ERRP!
WOUHM!
... BAWAL MANIGARILYO SA DUMIDIGHAY NA IGNO ...
ASHANNA 'YUNG TAGAY?
PMJR

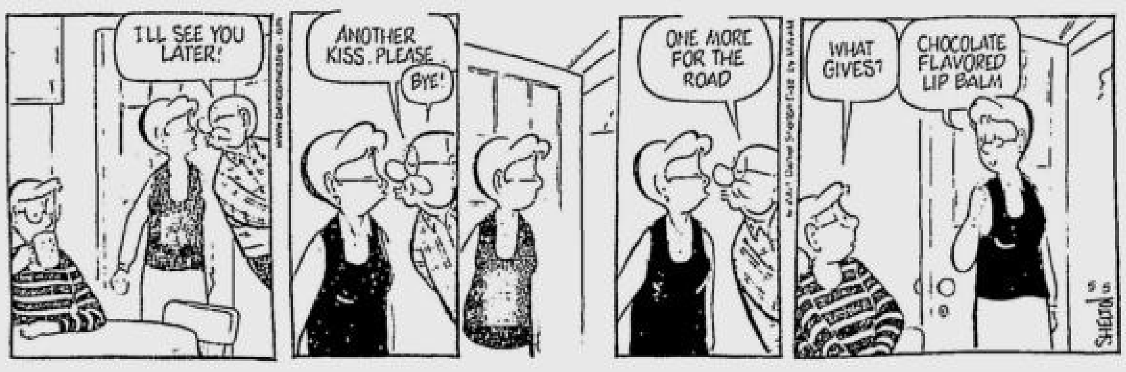
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I READ A GREAT RECIPE FOR SHMILK AND COOKIES.
OOOH— CAN YOU FIND IT FOR ME?
SURE— I DOG-EARED THE PAGE.
muttscomics.com
5-17

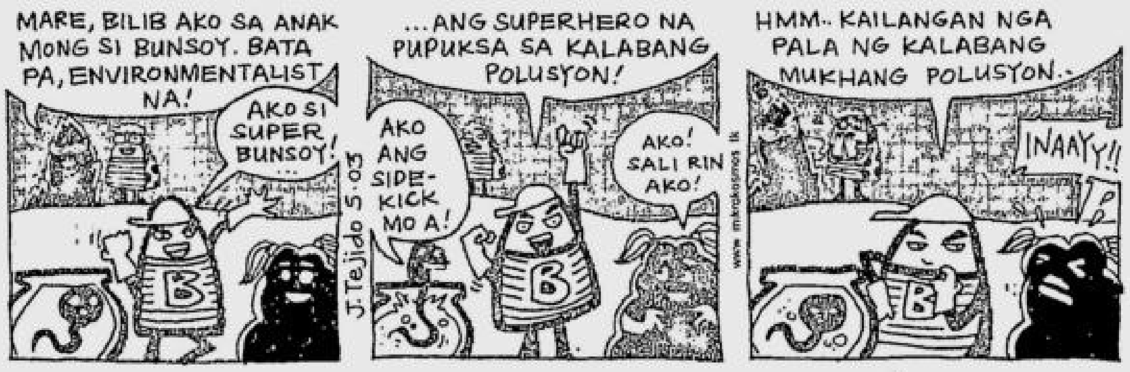
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


FORGET THE LAMB, DAVID! WE CAN ALWAYS CLONE ANOTHER ONE!

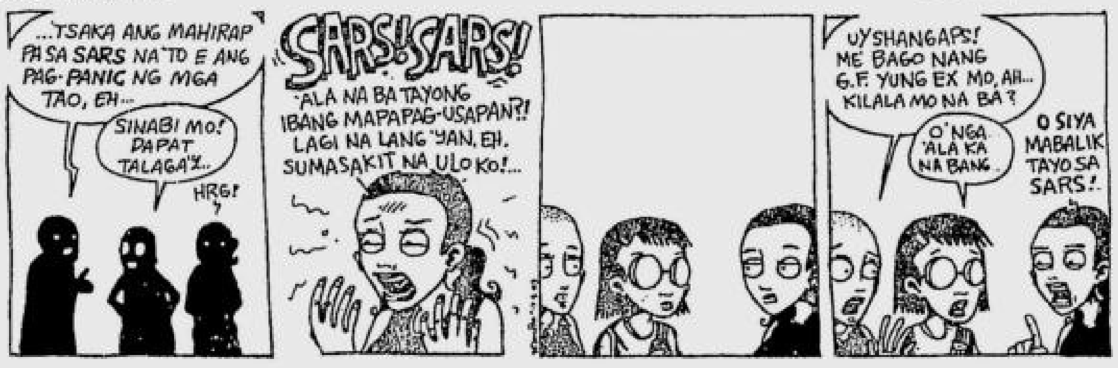
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
ANOTHER KISS, PLEASE.
BYE!
ONE MORE FOR THE ROAD
WHAT GIVES?
CHOCOLATE FLAVORED LIP BALM
SHELTON

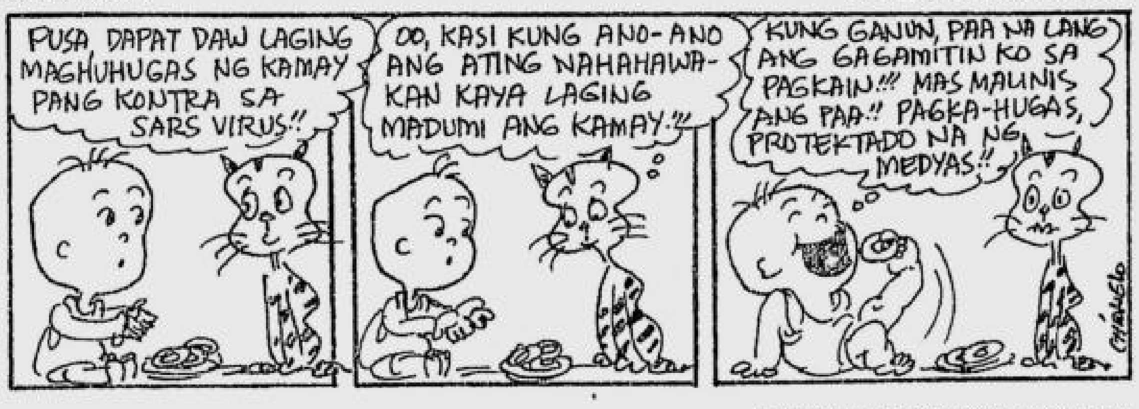
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARE, BILIB AKO SA ANAK MONG SI BUNSOY. BATA PA, ENVIRONMENTALIST NA!
AKO SI SUPER BUNSOY!
...ANG SUPERHERO NA PUPUKSA SA KALABANG POLUSYON!
AKO ANG SIDEKICK MO A!
AKO! SALI RIN AKO!
J. Tejido 5.03
HMM.. KAILANGAN NGA PALA NG KALABANG MUKHANG POLUSYON..
INAAYY!!

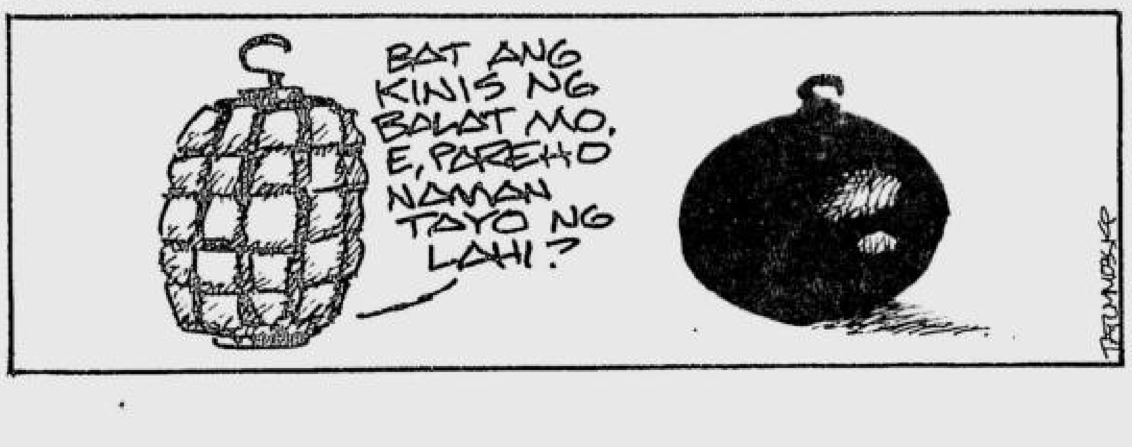
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


...TSAKA ANG MAHIRAP PA SA SARS NA 'TO E ANG PAG-PANIC NG MGA TAO, EH...
SINABI MO! DAPAT TALAGA'Y..
HRG!
SARS! SARS!
'ALA NA BA TAYONG IBANG MAPAPAG-USAPAN?! LAGI NA LANG 'YAN, EH. SUMASAKIT NA ULO KO!...
UY SHANGAPS! ME BAGO NANG G.F. YUNG EX MO, AH... KILALA MO NA BA?
O'NGA. 'ALA KA NA BANG..
O SIYA MABALIK TAYO SA SARS!.

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PUSA, DAPAT DAW LAGING MAGHUHUGAS NG KAMAY PANG KONTRA SA SARS VIRUS!!
OO, KASI KUNG ANO-ANO ANG ATING NAHAHAWAKAN KAYA LAGING MADUMI ANG KAMAY!!!
KUNG GANUN, PAA NA LANG ANG GAGAMITIN KO SA PAGKAIN!!! MAS MALINIS ANG PAA!! PAGKA-HUGAS, PROTEKTADO NA NG MEDYAS!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAT ANG KINIS NG BALAT MO, E, PAREHO NAMAN TAYO NG LAHI?

Animal Planet shows delight young viewers

By Noelani Torre

TIGERS play lead roles on "Wild on the Set."

PEOPLE on TV seem to be acting wilder nowadays, so much so that we find ourselves tuning in more often to the stations that feature real, more interesting wildlife—National Geographic, Discovery, and Animal Planet.

Humorous

The last has proven to be a perfectly delightful channel, with a lighter, more humorous touch to is programming than the first two networks—probably because kids tune in to it more.

We watched an enjoyable hour of shows on Animal Planet a few days ago, episodes on two of their regular series, "Zookeepers" and "Wild on the Set." Both shows focus not only on the animals themselves, but also on the people who care for and train them. And though those guys sometimes act wild, well, they're always fun to watch.

The episode of "Zookeepers," trained its camera on the Paignton Zoo. By focusing on the lives and experiences of individual zookeepers, the show gives us interesting portraits of these people whom we frequently disregard when we go to the zoo.

Terrified

We follow Ingrid, who used to take care of the baboons, as she flies to Zimbabwe on a scholarship grant to study black rhinos. She's just a little bit terrified of them, which we find surprising, as she's the all-powerful zookeeper who ought to know everything about animals. That zookeepers don't is what this episode shows us—but it also tells us that, when a person cares, she can definitely learn.

Back at home, things are getting exciting and even soap-operatic: "The hornbills have had a fight," says zookeeper Jinky. Twenty-year-old "Jane Wade" has been pecked all over by her enraged husband, and she has hidden under the feeding bin. She's already a hornbill senior at that age and she's in pretty bad shape. The keepers rescue her and keep her away from her mate.

There are lots of other characters in the zoo, one of them an adolescent emu named Vinny who refuses to go to bed. Typical teenage behavior! His keeper has to do a lot of stick maneuvering to get him into his enclosure—he's the second largest bird in the world, after all, not just some runty chicken.

There are also a lot of characters in "Wild on the Set." There's a bored tiger that plays a ferocious tiger in a TV series; camels and a herd of goats that play, well, camels and goats in a sci-fi thriller; and horses and Texas longhorns who "act" in a western.

Animal trainer

The tiger, Tara, has been trained by exotic animal trainer Randy Miller (what a job!). The TV series "Manhattan A-Z" has an episode where animals escape from a zoo, and the director wants a shot of a tiger mauling somebody. This is a job for the experts, and Randy Miller, despite his long hair and beach bum look, certainly is one, so he's the gut who gets mauled—safely.

The camels belong to Mike Hackenberger, who owns a zoo, and they are not trained—but that's OK, because you don't need to train a camel to act like one! The tricky part is getting the pyrotechnic-riddled shot done safely. Plus, there's a herd of goats to make it just a little harder.

Hackenberger and his assistant have to dress up in Bedouin robes, and get to be in the movie, too. After all, you can't leave a delicate job like leading stubborn animals to amateurs.

The western, "Jericho," needs a lot of cowboy-herding-cattle shots. But the problem with Texas longhorns is that they're unpredictable, and they have those sharp horns, too. You don't want to be near those horns when they start acting unpredictably!

Everything has to be timed and managed perfectly. The tiger had to look suitably ferocious, the camels have to be freaked (but not panicked) by the explosions, and the longhorns have to behave like the real thing—but not *too* much.

Safety

It's fascinating to watch the endless preparations the crew makes for a few seconds' worth of material. But all of this is essential, not just to get the shot right, but also to ensure the animals' safety. After all, they didn't audition or volunteer for the job, and they're not going to get paid much, either—probably just some extra feed.

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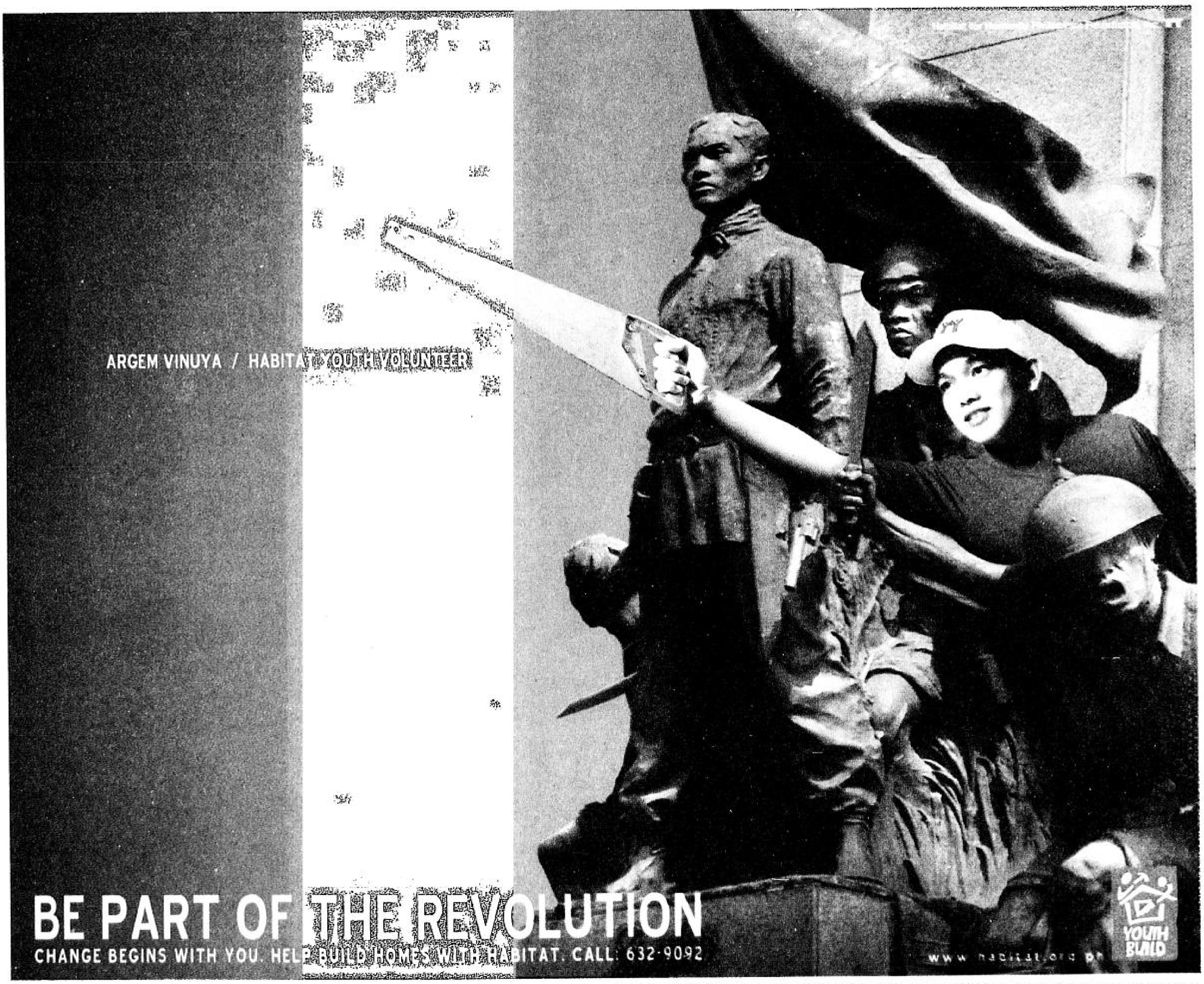

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Lucas forms digital animation unit

LUCAS. No stranger to digital animation.

LOS ANGELES—Following the path of Pixar Animation Studios, Dreamworks and other filmmakers, "Stars Wars" creator George Lucas is forming a new group to make computer-animated films, a spokeswoman said on Monday.

Offshoot

The unit, called Lucasfilm Animation, is an offshoot of his special effects company, Industrial Light & Magic, that has been a pioneer in the field of digital effects and works on Lucas' own "Star Wars" films.

Lynne Hale, spokeswoman for his San Rafael, California-based Lucasfilm Ltd., said the new unit was "still in its beginning stages.".

As a result, details were limited. Hale confirmed that Lucasfilm Animation will be formed from a nine-person team housed with Industrial Light & Magic. The new division will be headed by senior vice president Patty Blau.

Lucas is a vocal proponent of using digitally produced and computerized special effects in the movies.

Production company

Until now, however, he has lacked a production company dedicated to making computerized animation movies such as "Shrek," "Monsters, Inc." or last year's "Ice Age." Those three films have been smash hits with combined global ticket sales of $1.36 billion. On its own, "Monsters, Inc.," which was produced by Pixar and The Walt Disney Co., raked in $529 million in global ticket sales.

Lucas is no stranger to digital animation. Indeed, Pixar had been Lucasfilm's computer graphics division 17 years ago before Lucas sold it to Apple Computer's Steve Jobs for $10 million.

Reuters

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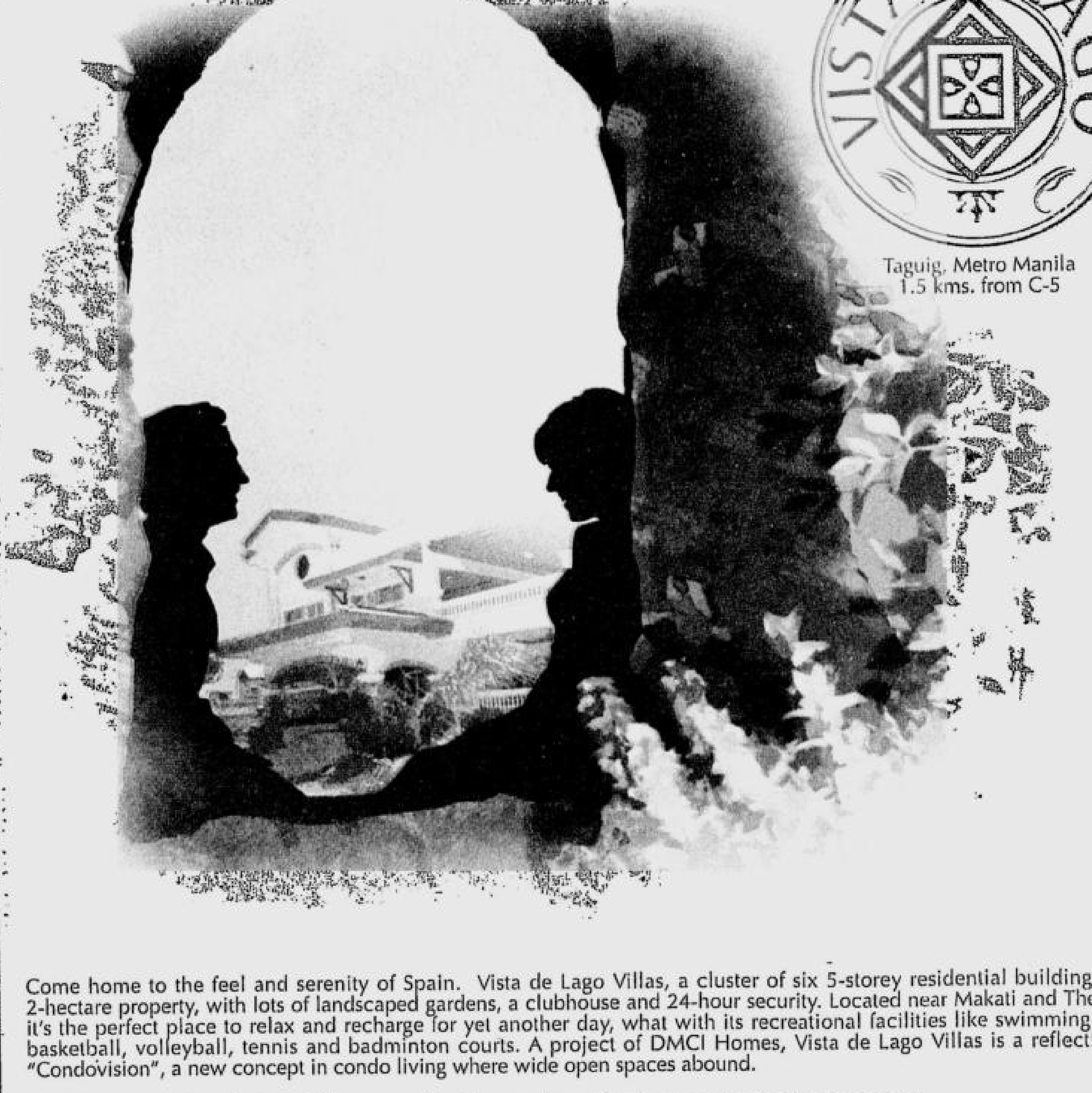

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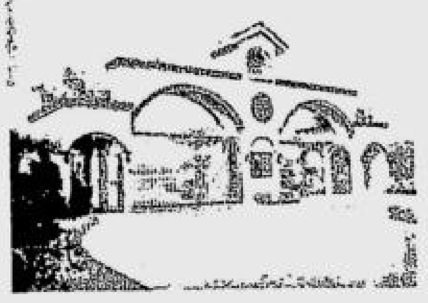

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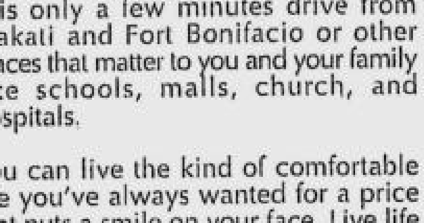
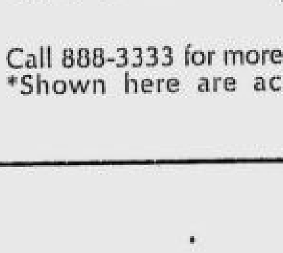
All these you can enjoy without worry because security is guaranteed 24 hours. Here, the olden-times feel of tranquility is coupled by modern day convenience. Parking isn't a problem either. Aside from one carpark building, there is also a parking space in front of each building.



Conveniently Located
On top of all these, Vista de Lago Villas is far enough from the hustle of the city but close enough to be conveniently accessible to all your needs. After all, it is only a few minutes drive from Makati and Fort Bonifacio or other places that matter to you and your family like schools, malls, church, and hospitals.

You can live the kind of comfortable life you've always wanted for a price that puts a smile on your face. Live life comfortably and peacefully. Live the Vista de Lago life.

Call 888-3333 for more information.
*Shown here are actual photos of the development.



Mapúa Institute of Technology and its Alumni Community will honor today 18 distinguished graduates as The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Awardees for the year 2003

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I AM PROUD
TO BE A MAPÚAN !
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI
FOUNDATION OF OUTSTANDING MAPUANS, INC.
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NAMA, the premier alumni organization of Mapua graduates, leads today's grand reunion of Mapuans

Mapua Institute of Technology and the National Association of Mapua Alumni (NAMA) will honor 18 of its graduates and confer upon them the distinction as The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) in their respective fields of professional practice, service and endeavor.

Mapua, as an educational institution in the Philippines, is well-known for producing top-notch architects, engineers, entrepreneurs and managers as well as leaders of nations.

The 2003 TOM Awardees will be honored during the 69th Grand Alumni Homecoming organized by NAMA which will be held today, May 17, 2003, at the Isla Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, starting at 5:00 P.M.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI

ALFONSO C. SUPETRAN
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2003 TOM Awards

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Velca Equipment &
Engineered Products, Inc.
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

CELSO V. VALDECAÑAS
CE '62
President & CEO
VL Group of Companies
CIVIL ENGINEERING

WILLINGTON K.K.C. TAN
EE '72
Vice President
Columbia Wire and
Cable Corporation
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

RODRIGO V. CARANDANG
ECE '84
Vice President, ABS-CBN
Broadcasting Corporation
ELECTRONICS and COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING

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HS '66 • ME '71
Chairman
Pilipinas Shell
Petroleum Corporation
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MIE '78
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and General Manager
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JOVITO M. LUIS
MetE '69
President
Brinalloy Casting
& Fabric Corporation
METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING

FORTUNATO C. GUADAÑA, JR.
EM '69
OIC-Resident Manager
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.
MINING ENGINEERING

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Dean, School of Earth and Material
Science Engineering
Mapua Institute of Technology
ACADEME

BENG THENG CHUA
ChE '62
President
Polymaster Industrial
Corporation
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EDISON UY ANG
ME '79
Past District Governor
District 3800, Rotary International
COMMUNITY SERVICE

COL. GREGORIO C. RAMOS
ME '67 • ROTC '66
Deputy Brigade Commander
51st Engineer Brigade
Philippine Army
MILITARY SERVICE

In International Fields of Professional Practice, Service and Endeavor

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CE '66
President
Rudell & Associates, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL: CIVIL ENGINEERING

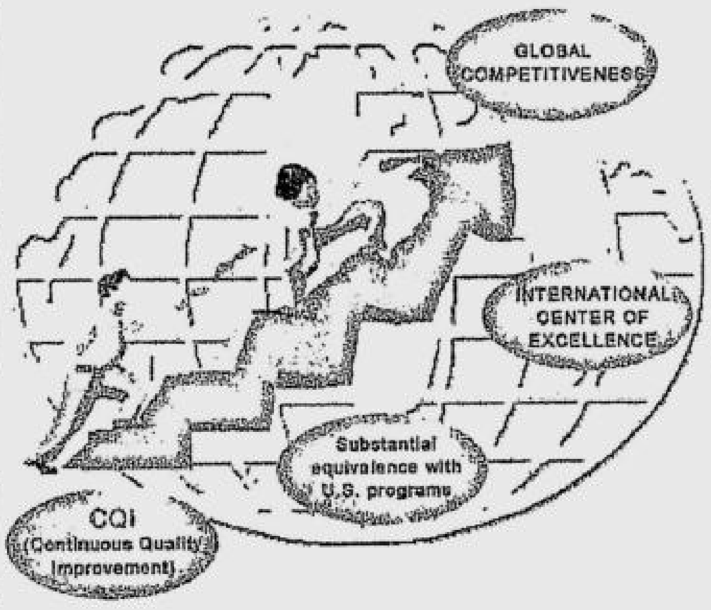
RODULFO C. NIERE
CE '60
President
Uniplan Engineering, Inc.
INTERNATIONAL: CIVIL ENGINEERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

BENJAMIN AGUSTIN ANG
ME '72
President and CEO
Solid Industries LTD.
INTERNATIONAL: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

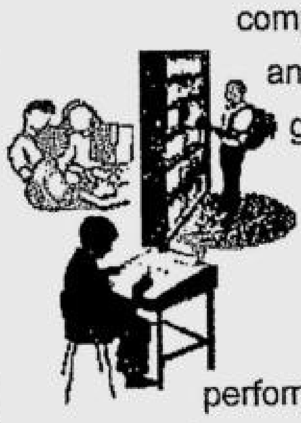
FELIPE-REY UMALI GREGORIO
EE '72
Senior Associate
Hatch Associates
INTERNATIONAL: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (CANADA)

ERNESTO MILO FERNANDEZ
EE '62
President & CEO
EM Fernandez Engineering
INTERNATIONAL: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (USA)

MAPÚA takes another giant stride towards global recognition and competitiveness through CQI


GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS
INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
Substantial equivalence with U.S. programs
CQI (Continuous Quality Improvement)

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is a process aimed at sustaining high quality education and ensuring high level of competence and performance among Mapua students and graduates throughout their professional career.

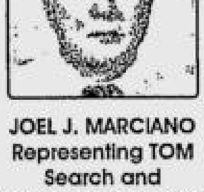


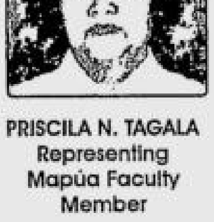
The program involves monitoring of academic performance of students while in school and as they graduate to join the ranks of the professionals in various local and international industries.

Career advisory and supplementary course programs shall be made available to further enhance their competencies to be at pace with the advances in technology and the global demand for quality and highly productive professionals.

QuarTerm
is more than just a race to finish
It's all about GOOD PRODUCTIVITY FLEXIBILITY COST EFFICIENCY and COMPETITIVE EDGE

Mapúa-NAMA 2003 TOM Board of Judges


OSCAR DE VENECIA
Chair

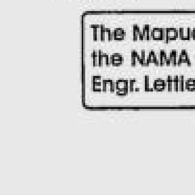

MILAGROS V. REYES
Representing Mapúa
Institute of Technology
Co-chair

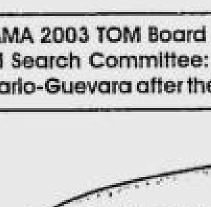
ERNESTO V. VILLANUEVA
Representing
Foundation of
Outstanding Mapuans, Inc.
Co-chair

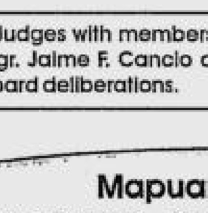
ALFONSO C. SUPETRAN
Representing
National Association
of Mapua Alumni
Co-chair

CONSUELO V. FLORA
Representing Mapúa
Institute of Technology
Member

CESAR D. CASTRO
NAMA Immediate
Past President
Director-in-Charge
2003 TOM


JOEL J. MARCIANO
Representing TOM
Search and
Selection Committee
Member


PRISCILA N. TAGALA
Representing
Mapúa Faculty
Member


MIRIAM D. NECESITO
Representing Mapúa
Institute of Technology
Member

NAMA-MAPÚA-FOMI
I AM PROUD
TO BE A MAPÚAN !

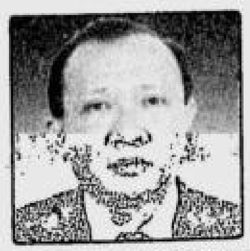
The Mapua-NAMA 2003 TOM Board of Judges with members of the NAMA TOM Search Committee: Engr. Jaime F. Cancio and Engr. Lettie Rosario-Guevara after the board deliberations.

Mapuans: Join the
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPÚAN!
Movement

Advt.

THE MAPÚA ALUMNI COMMUNITY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI (NAMA) OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS NAMA YEAR 2002-2003


ALFONSO C. SUPETRAN
President

OLEGARIO S. SERAFICA
First
Vice-President

HERACILLO F. PALAD
Second
Vice-President

CESAR D. CASTRO
Immediate Past
President

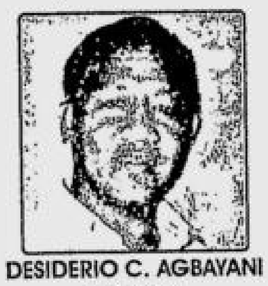
PRISCILA N. TAGALA
Secretary

ALMANZOR E. TUBIG
Treasurer

ANTONIO C. PACLEB
PRO

HILARIO B. SUELTO
Auditor

HERNANDO LIMSIN
Director


DESIDERIO C. AGBAYANI
Director

EDUARDO Y. MANANSALA
Director

FOUNDATION OF OUTSTANDING MAPUANS, INC. (FOMI) OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES YEAR 2002-2003

ERNESTO V. VILLANUEVA
ME '65 TOM '90
President

ALFREDO P. MONTECILLO
CE '65 TOM '98
Vice President

HUGO T. PEREZ
ChE '74 TOM '01
Secretary

JOSE P. MANANZAN
BA '55 TOM '74
Treasurer

EDILBERTO F. FLORENTINO
AR '51 TOM '92
Auditor

ARNALDO P. BALDONADO
ME '55 TOM '85 / '94
PRO

SERGIO C. BALOLONG
ME '69 TOM '99
Trustee

HENRY A. CAPULE
BA '60 TOM '00
Trustee

CESAR D. CASTRO
HS '59 ChE '65
TOM '98 / Trustee

ENRIQUE P. INCIONG
CE '49 TOM '00
Trustee

HERNANDO P. LIMSIN
Chem '62 TOM '01
Trustee

RODRIGO C. ONG
Chem '61 ChE '62
TOM '86 / Trustee

ROMEO A. PERLADO
ME '57 EE '56 TOM '89
Trustee

JOSEFINA M. RAMOS
AR '57 TOM '78
Trustee

ALFONSO C. SUPETRAN
ChE '70 TOM '92
NAMA President

LAURO D. GUEVARA
ChE '74 TOM '93
Immediate Past President

RICARDO P. PAMA
CE '61 TOM '90
Past President

ROMULO M. DEL ROSARIO
CE '51 TOM '84
Past President

JUANITO N. FERRER
CE '49 TOM '86 / '90
Chairman Emeritus

OVERSEAS ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI (GUAM)
MAPÚA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ALBERTA CHAPTER
MIT CE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN BRUNEI
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MAPÚA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (SCMA)
THE MAPUA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (B.C. CHAPTER)
MAPÚA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EASTERN USA
TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI (TAMA)
MAPÚA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI-ONTARIO (IAMAO)
MAPÚA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO (MAASD)
SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION OF MAPÚA ALUMNI (SAMA)

NAMA ADVISERS

OSCAR DE VENECIA

LAURO D. GUEVARA

JOSE P. MANANZAN

ALFREDO P. MONTECILLO

CELEDONIO S. PILE

ERNESTO V. VILLANUEVA

PRESIDENTS OF NAMA AFFILIATED ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

JOSEFINA M. RAMOS
MIT Architecture and
Industrial Design
Alumni Association

ENRICO C. CAPULE
Business Administration
and Faculty AA
of MIT

NOEL B. FRANCO
MIT Civil Engineering and
Environmental and Sanitary
Engineering AA

GLECY C. ESTRELLA
MIT Chemical
Engineering
and Chemistry AA

RAQUILINO B. PANGAN
MIT Electrical
Engineering
Alumni Association

R. GERARD G. DE LEON
MIT Electronics and
Communications
Engineering & Computer
Engineering AA

FRANCISCO G. LUSOC
Mechanical Engineering
Alumni Association
of MIT

J.M. GLENN BATILANDO
Mining, Geology
& Metallurgical Alumni
Group of MIT

BENJAMIN A. FRAYCO
NAMA Home Chapter

AUGUSTO F. ANG, I
MIT High School
Alumni Association,
Inc. (MITHSAAI)

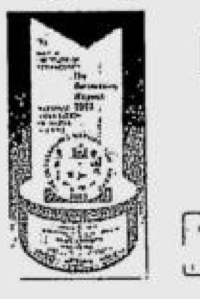
ENG LU GO
MIT Filipino-Chinese
Alumni Association

ANTONIO C. PACLEB
MIT Castle & Cardinal
Alumni Association

MING G. MORENO
Faculty and Alumni Association of
Management & Industrial Engineering of MIT

LETICIA ROSARIO-GUEVARA
Director, Mapúa
Alumni Liaison Office

Mapuans: Join the
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPÚAN!
Movement



TOM

The Outstanding Mapúan

Mapúa-NAMA Annual Awards

The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) is an annual project jointly undertaken by the Mapua Insitute of Technology (Mapúa) and the National Association of Mapúa Alumni (NAMA)

The project is also given special support by the Foundation of Outstanding Mapúans, Inc. (FOMI).

The TOM Awards project primarily seeks to give due recognition to Mapúa alumni who have excelled in their respective profession or vocation, or have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of the school, the community, the country, and / or the world in various fields of endeavor or service.

The project also aims to focus the attention of the Mapúa alumni and the public on these achievements so they may serve as inspiration for everybody. Mapúa and NAMA pay tribute to these outstanding alumni every year through the TOM Awards.

YEAR 2002

Almanzor E. Tubig	Architecture
Amante V. Galang	Chemical Eng
Rogelio C. Lombos	Civil Engineering
Eduardo H. Tan	Electrical Eng
Arnulfo V. Cabantog	Geology
Arnel B. Aranas	Industrial Eng
Gerardo C. Hernandez	Mechanical Eng
Virgilio G. Medina	Metallurgical Eng
Gabino V. Belleza	Mining Eng
Jesus L. Chua	Entrepreneurship
Antonio F. Mateo	Inventions and Pioneering
Leticia R. Guevara	Alumni Service
Heracilio F. Palad	Community Service
Virgilio L. Florendo	Military Service/ME
Cesar P. Gopilan	Military Service/CE
Corazon M. Matthews	Environmental Eng
Wilfrido B. Simbol	Entrepreneurship
Ildefonso M. Medina	Information Tech
Renato M. Almeda	Mechanical Eng
Villavicencio D. Mungcal	Alumni Service
Pepito O. Lapid	Community Service

YEAR 2001

Benjamin So Si Hok	Architecture
Jaime F. Cancio	Civil Eng
Hernando P. Limsin	Chemistry
Robert C. Chan	Electrical Eng
Danilo B. Rulloda	Metallurgical Eng
Jose S. Sarat	Mining Eng
Roberto M. Mabilangan	Mechanical Eng
Renato L. Cayetano	Government Service
Adolfo M. Montesa	Military Service
William S. Pamintuan	Telecomms Mgt
Miriam E. Necesito	Academe
Hugo T. Perez	Community Service
Eustaquio Coronel	Construction Mgt
Rolando C. Gonzales	Alumni Service
Carmen Timoteo-Gonzales	Alumni Service
Perfecto A. Arca	Entrepreneurship
Edith Garcia-Ramos	Alumni Service (USA)
Gerry Rulloda	Alumni Service (Can)
Eula Rojas-Rulloda	Alumni Service (Can)

YEAR 2000

Enrique P. Inciong	Civil Engineering
Cordell U. del Rosario	Electrical Eng
George N. Lim	Electronics & Com
Romeo M. Luis	Geology
Roberto A. Lozada	Mechanical Eng
Eduardo Lacbay	Metallurgical Eng
Cesar C. Abella	Military Service
Ricardo L. Aranas	Academe
Pedro M. Jopia	Alumni Service
Raul C. Asis	Government Service
Lilia Robles-Austriaco	Information Science
Luis G. Lachica	Mechanical Eng
Joseph B. Valencia	Civil Engineering
Edgar R. Frondozo	Comp Consultancy
Jose D. Pascual	Chemical Eng
Enrico A. Capule	Business Admin

YEAR 1999

Dionisio F. Coronel	Architecture
Enrico T. Velasco	Business Admin
Chika G. Go	Civil Engineering
Sheila T. Obedoza	Chemical Eng
Jose B. Abinoja	EE
Felizardo F. Dela Merced	ECE
Nilo S. Cruz	MIE
Leonardo P. Josef	EM
Sergio C. Balolong	ME
Jose C. Policarpio	Public Service
Constancio Z. Paranal, Jr.	Const Mgt
Danilo E. Ignacio	Corp & Proj Mgmt
Antonio C. Bautista, Sr.	Entrepreneurship
Preciliano T. Ordinario	Intl, ME
Benjamin A: Garcia	Intl, Community Service
Salvador P. Castro, Jr.	Corp & Proj Mgt
Juanito C. Recio	Military Service
Adelaida Lacaba-Bago	Academe
Renato A. Javate	Private Electric Utility
Josefina Jimenez-Culsia	Alumni Service

YEAR 1998

Fernando S. Baldivia, Jr.	ChE
Idabel B. Pagulayan	Chem
Alfredo P. Montecillo	CE
Olegario S. Serafica	EE
Cesar D. Castro	ECE
Arthur A. De Guia	MIE
Abraham P. De Vera	ME
Augusto C. Villaluna	EM
Elpidio C. Cayabyab	Affil Alum Service
Ma. Cecilia C. Carlos	Alumni Service
Pedro L. Linsangan	Community Service
Orlando V. Roy	Const Mgt
Manuel B. Villar, Jr.	Entrepreneurship
Juanito P. Abergas	Govt Service
Manat Chuenkerdiarp	International CE
Felipe A. Ordoñez, Jr.	Energy Devt
Alfredo V. Gutierrez	AR
Manuel R. Go	AR (Posthumous)

YEAR 1997

Jose T. Mañosa	AR
Johnny A. Khong Hun	ChE
Rogelio C. Supan	CE
Rogelio Q. Lim	EE
Lydia N. Orial	MIE
Augusto C. Soliman	ME
Jose B. Anievas	EM
Juanito B. de Asis	TE
Peter M. Ureta	Academe
Oscar E. Reyes	Affil Alum Service
Yu Keng Loon	Alumni Service
Antonio Dy Ching Bing	Entrepreneurship
Tonny C. Chinkee	ECE
Richard Albert L. Osmond	Govt Service
Nemencio S. Macario	International CE

YEAR 1996

Gregorio Sta. Maria	AR
Oscar B. Biason	MIE
Reynaldo C. Daquigan	EE
Danilo Q. Bulanadi	ME
Henry C. Koa	Alumni Service
Dolores Legaspi-Lim	Alumni Service
Macra A. Cruz	Govt Service
Juanito U. Fernandez	Comm Service
Rufino H. Kopio	Entrepreneurship
Jose C. Calderon	Academe
Juanito J. Chavez	Intl Corp Lead
Somboon Arayaskul	ME (Thailand)
Narciso G. Fuertes	ME (Guam)
Armando R. San Juan	ChE (USA)
Bonifacio O. De Lumen	ChE
Vicente B. Lopez	CE
Noel B. Franco	SE
Horacio Ramos	EM
Bethoven L. Rualo	BA
Alfredo T. Fragante	ECE
Samai Bunphotprakarn	CE (Thailand)

YEAR 1995

Zenaida H. Santos	Bank & Fin (Guam)
Norma Rieza-Benzon	Comm Service
Ruben A. Hernandez	Govt Service
Jose E. Gutierrez, Jr.	CE (Guam)
Domingo L. Lagman	ME
Wilfredo I. Jose	Academe
Ruperto C. Magno	ChE
Arsenio L. Chua	MIE
Jacinto T. Uy	Entrepreneurship
Sr. Ma. Aida M. Velasquez	Environment
Teodulo Q. Abalos	Alum Serv (USA)
Lejo C. Brana	PackEng&Tech (USA)
Ildefonso A. Yap	Alumni Service
Fe A. Noche	Affil Alum Service
Jaime H. Pajara	CE
Meleusipo E. Fonollera, Sr.	EE
Nicolas G. Ricafrente	Indl Design
Jaime C. Marquez	AR
Nonato S. Retardo	MET
Israel C. Gaddi	EM
Vichit Jiruttitijareon	AR (Thailand)
Supchai Sirikawantha	CE (Thailand)

YEAR 1994

Virach Chanpanich	EE (Thailand)
Teodulo Q. Abalos	Chpt Alum Serv (USA)
Zenaida H. Santos	Bank& Fin (Guam)
Norma Riezza-Benzon	Comm Serv (USA)
Prasertchai Chaiwat	Const Mgt (Thai)
Lejo C. Brana	Pack Eng & Tech (USA)
Paulino T. Lim	AR
Adoracion Cruz-Regoso	BA
Reynaldo O. Navarro	ChE
Bernardita E. Mandac	Chem
Octavio A. Kalalo	CE
Francisco T. Delgado	EE
Pedro C. Caleon	Geo & EM
Bayani F. Fernando	ME
Teofilo I. Asuncion	SE
Rodrigo V. Masil	Academe
Celedonio S. Pile	Alum Affairs
Sr. Esther Maria Cuvin	Comm Serv
Necesito U. Sytengco	Entrep
Arnaldo P. Baldonado	Govt Service
Cesar R. Paginawan	Management
Serafin M. Pantaleon	Mfg

YEAR 1993

Lauro D. Guevara	ChE
Gerardo G. Magat	AR
Edward M. Balanag	MIE
Antonio R. De Vera	Govt Service
Laurentino R. Punzalan	ME
Honorata R. De Leon	Chem
Rene C. Atienza	ECE
Arturo C. Sevillano	Geo
Ricardo A. Verches	EM
Jose T. Ramas	EE
Ma. Consuelo Viray-Flora	Academe
Pacifico C. Directo	Mfg
Primo P. Alcantara	CE
Dominador A. Catibog, Jr.	Mil Service
Alexander J. Ledesma	Entre

YEAR 1992

Ediberto F. Florentino	AR
Angelito M. Villanueva	BA
Edgar A. Zaragosa	ChE
Kuan Kong	Chem
Edmundo V. Mir	EE
Emiliano D. Roldan, Jr.	EE
Francisco A. Dumalaog	ME
Ramon T. Santiago	EM
Pablito V. Malixi	Management
Alfonso C. Supetran	Entre
Evelyn B. Pantig	Govt Serv

Advt

"I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPÚAN!" ROLE MODELS HONORED

BAYANI F. FERNANDO
ME '67 TOM '94
Chairman, Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)

ELISEO B. SANTIAGO
HS '66 ME '71 TOM '03
Chairman
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation

Dr. LEON O. CHUA
EE '59
Inventor, Chua Circuit
Professor, University of California at Berkeley

ANTONIO S. ABACAN, JR.
BA '62 TOM '87
President
Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company

DIOSDADO BANATAO
EE '66 TOM '92
Managing Partner
Tallwood Venture Capital

JAIME H. PAJARA
CE '55 TOM '95
President/Chairman
J. H. Pajara Construction Corp.

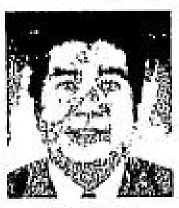
NAMA

MAPÚA

FOMI

DR. REYNALDO B. VEA
Mapua President

ALFONSO C. SUPETRAN
NAMA President


ERNESTO V. VILLANUEVA
FOMI President

CESAR D. CASTRO
Movement Chair

Mapuans: Join the
I AM PROUD TO BE A MAPÚAN!
Movement

The alumni community of the Mapua Institute of Technology led by the National Association of Mapua (NAMA) will honor 6 of of Mapua's most distinguished graduates during its 69th Grand Alumni Homecoming. The Big Alumni Event will be held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Ortigas Center. This was announced recently by Cesar D. Castro, NAMA Immediate Past President and acting chairman of the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan" movement.

NAMA, the Foundation of Outstanding Mapuans, Inc. (FOMI) and the Mapua Institute of Technology jointly launched last year the "I am Proud to be a Mapuan" movement. As part of its campaign to enhance the image of Mapua alumni and foster loyalty to the Alma Mater among them the movement has identified 3 Mapuans as campaign role models. These were banker Antonio S. Abacan, president of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.; Diosdado P. Banatao, world-class Silicon Vally investor and single-chip graphic accelerator inventor; and Jaime H. Pajara, topnotch Filipino contractor and civil engineer. This year's "I am Proud to be a Mapuan" role models will be: Dr. Leon O. Chua, University of California Berkeley expert on non-linear dynamics and inventor of the Chua circuit; Hon. Bayani Fernando, Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA); and Eliseo B. Santiago, Country Chair, Shell companies in the Philippines and Chairman, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Corp.

LIST OF TOM AWARDEES (continued)

Diosdado P. Banatao	Intl Entre
Benildo I. Reyes	Intl Achieve
YEAR 1991	
Antonio RO Herrera	ME
Rafael F. Florentino	EE
Fortunato Q. Perlas	ECE
Rolando A. De Guzman	Geo
Jose R. Valdecanas	Govt Serv
Eulalio Ganzon	Entre
Oscar C. De Venecia	Comm Serv
Ismael E. Maningas, Jr.	BA
Alfredo Y. Arizala	Intl Achieve
Agulies Ceazar C. Paredes	AR
Reynaldo S. Palmario	ChE
Zenaida Bugay-Soriano	Chem
YEAR 1990	
Willie C. Yu	AR
Crisanta S. Aquino	ChE
Juanito N. Ferrer	CE
Luis L. Mendoza	EE
Joel J. Marciano	ECE
Ernesto V. Villanueva	ME
Armando T. Fernandez	SE
Ricardo P. Pama	Academe
Herman T. Gamboa	Civic/Comm Serv
Melencio T. Manguinao	Entre
Joseph E. Estrada	Govt Serv
YEAR 1989	
William V. Coscolluela	AR
Carlito S. Marquez	ChE
Arturo C. Domingo	Chem
Manuel M. Bonoan	CE
Romeo A. Perlado	EE
Marcial C. Cardenas	ECE
Antonio R. Calleja	ME
Ruben A. Hernandez	SE
Pacifico G. Ongkingko	Academe
Paulo D. Honorio	Civic/Comm Serv
Cesario Mendoza	Civic/Soc Serv
Eulogio A. Topacio, Jr.	Entre
YEAR 1987	
Armand S. Commandante	AR
Antonio S. Abacan, Jr.	BA
Jesus G. Feliciano	ChE
Dionisio R. Opelanio	Chem
Pacifico G. Ongkingco	CE
Mederico T. Cortez	EE
Conrado A. Hernandez	ECE
Julio F. Abarquez	ME
Dominador C. Uy	EM
Ricardo S. De Leon, Jr.	SE
Marcelita Coronel-Magno	Academe
William T. Torres	Com Sci
Jimmy T. Tang	Entre
Rodolfo V. Rosales	Govt Serv
Gregorio C. Gervasio	Special
YEAR 1986	
Ricardo S. dela Rosa, Jr.	AR
Iluminada E. Cabigas	BA
John K. Tan	ChE
Rodrigo C. Ong	Chem
Teodoro C. Gener	CE
Conrado C. del Rosario	EE
Armando C. Pascual	ME
Gabriel B. Evangelista	EM
Francisco J. Garay	Academe
Agapito A. Aquino	Civil
Benjamin D. Carbonell	Entre
Juanito N. Ferrer	Govt Serv
YEAR 1985	
Ramon L. Cannu	Govt Serv
Celedonio S. Pile	Civic Org
Willie C. Yu	AR
Jacinto Tan Uy	ChE
Florante F. Mañacop	CE
Pastor B. Esguerra, Jr.	EE
Jose M. Amante, Jr.	ME
Arnaldo P. Baldonado	Prof Enhance
Gabriel L. Manrique	BA
Ramon A. Besa	EM
Evelyn T. Mendoza	Chem
Alfonso L. So	Entre
YEAR 1984	
Froilan L. Hong	AR
Tiao Kim Ang	ChE
Jose C. Santos	CE
Reymerio S. Velez	ME
Joventino S. Perfecto	EM
Frisco San Juan	Civic Serv
Nicasio M. Marin	Consult Mgt
Felipe Chua	Entre
Romulo M. Del Rosario	Govt Serv
Oscar Jerosa	Private Edu
YEAR 1982	
Manuel T. Perena	AR
Manuel T. Liao	BA
Violeta Arida	ChE
Enrique N. Villalon	CE
Gregorio Sadorra	EE
Rudy C. Oblal	EM
Amaury R. Gutierrez	ME
Fernando Esguerra	EM
Miguel V. Paala	Const Mgt
Albino Aberin	Education
Elnora Yambao-Rosal	Entre
Jose R. Valdecanas	Govt Serv
Benjamin Viola	Infra Devt
Eugene O. Torre	Sports
YEAR 1981	
Gabino A. De Leon	AR
Roberto L. Guison	ChE
Cesar E. Gonzales	CE
Hilario C. Gaerlan	EE
Domingo T. Dujunco	ME
Pablito M. Ong	EM
Arturo Trinidad	Banking
Rolando B. Ortiz	Entre
Severino V. Gervacio	Math
Ricardo J. Rufino	Public Serv
YEAR 1980	
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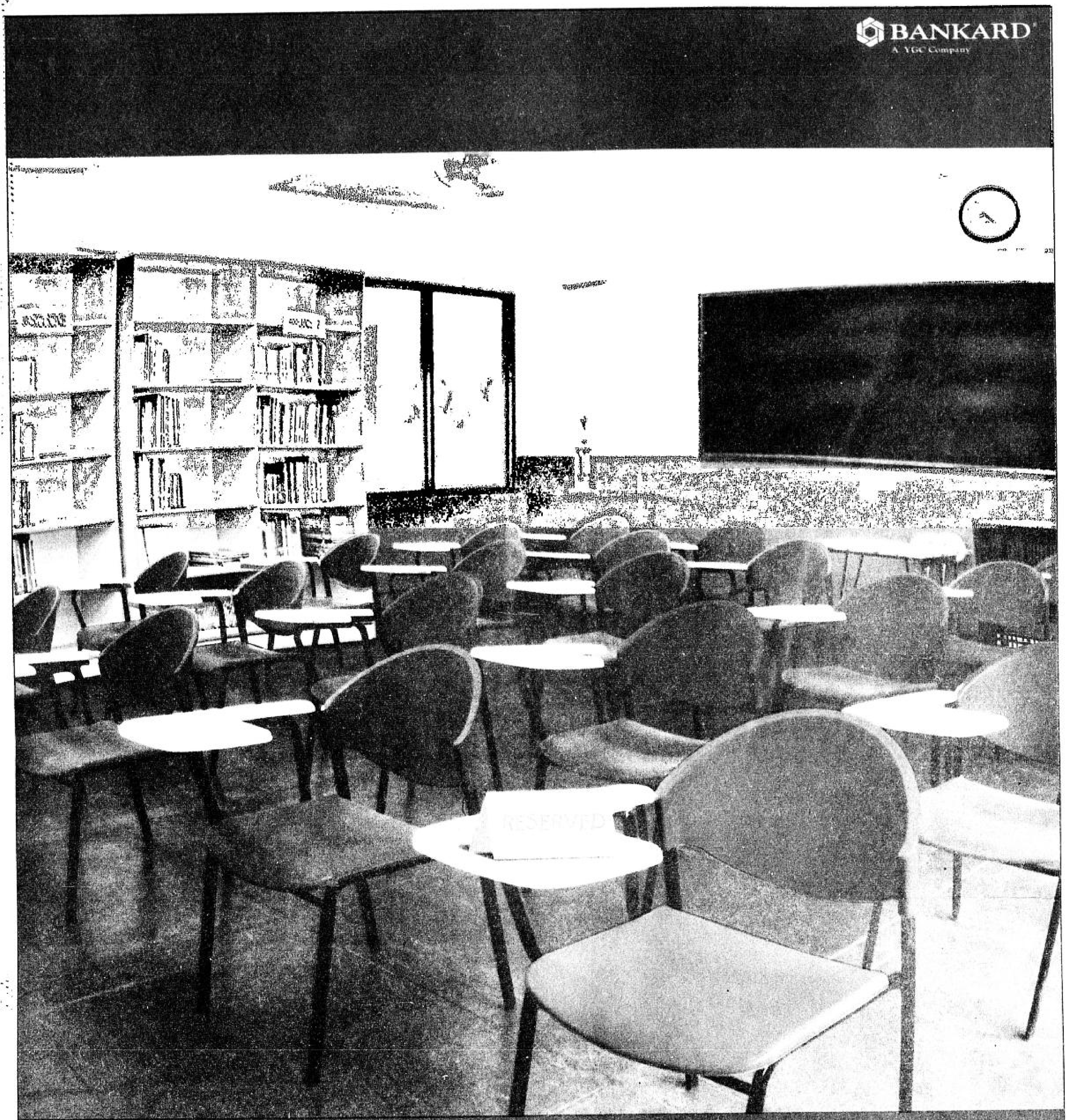

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Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 32

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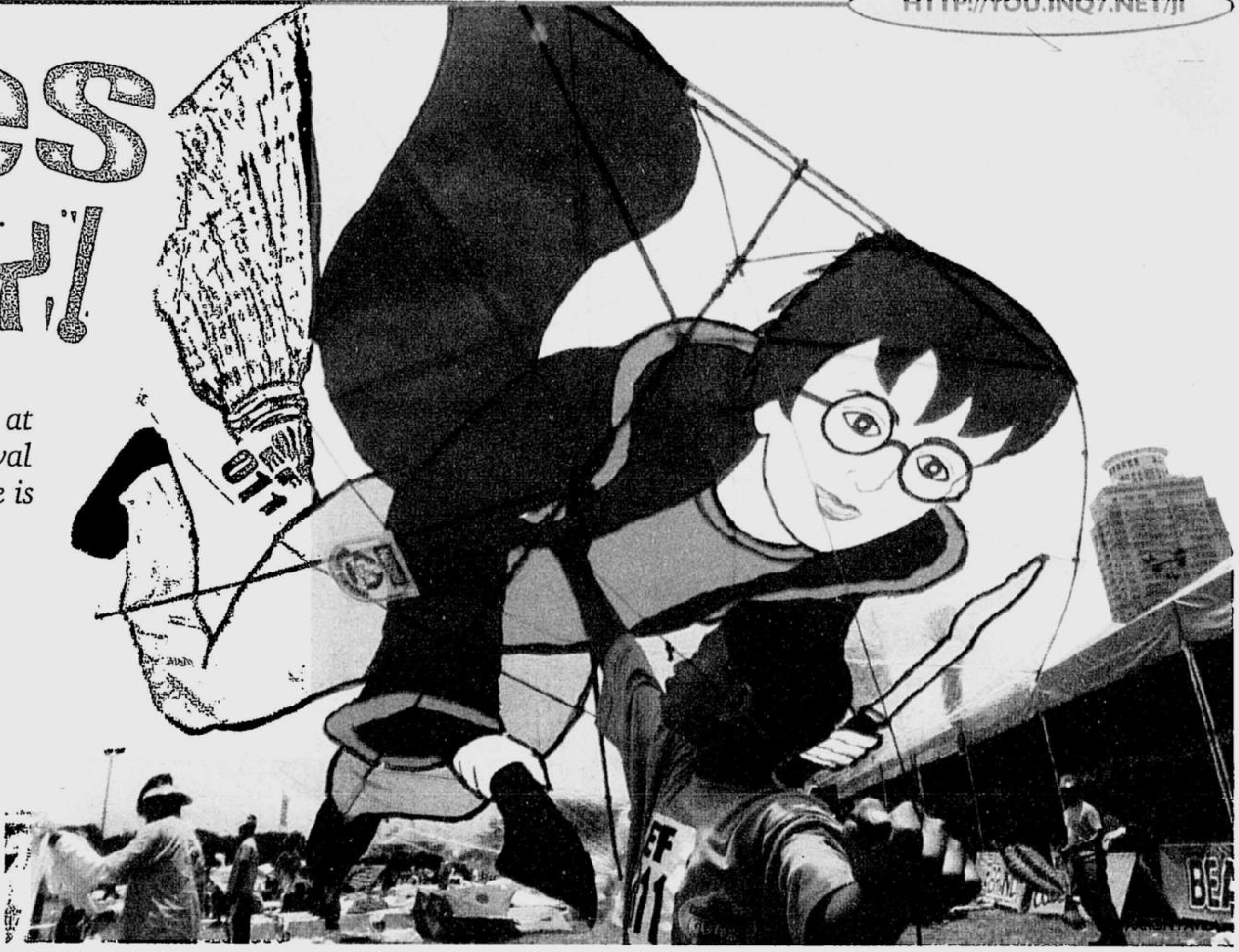
WHAT'S INSIDE:

Summer of 2002	Page 2
The Legend of the Balangiga Church Bells	Page 4
Atomo and Weboy	Page 6
Shirley's Pets	Page 7

Kites Ahoy!

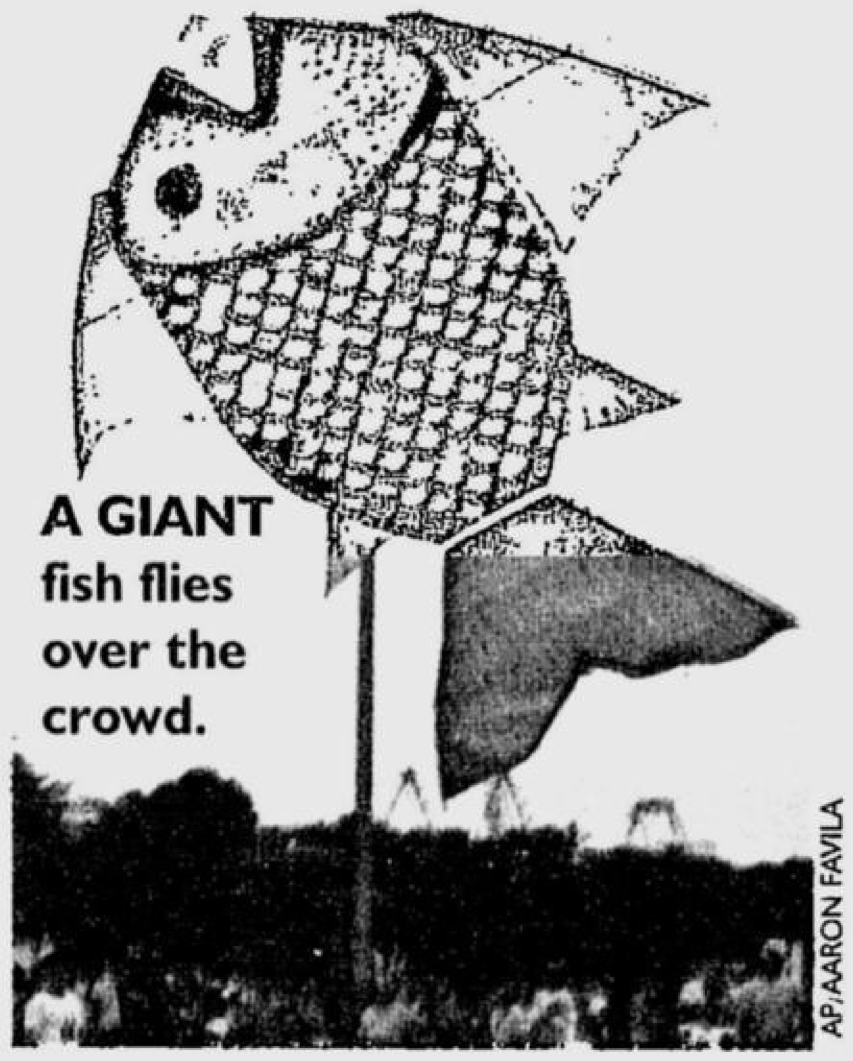
Harry Potter and X-Men's Wolverine make an appearance at the 2003 Bear Brand Kite Festival in Luneta. But where, oh, where is the Golden Snitch?

By Eline Santos


ROMMEL Quiopes checks his "Harry Potter" kite before the start of the Kitefest in Rizal Park, Manila.

THREE hundred amazing kites took to the skies last week in the 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest. Overcast skies threatened the start of the kite festival but cleared up to let giant owls, wasps, falcons, parrots, butterflies, dragonflies and fish to fly freely over Rizal Park.

There were boats, sweet corn, and pineapple kites too. Creative kites included a horse and carriage kite from Laguna whose "driver," made of thin Japanese paper, unfortunately melted in the pre-kitefest drizzle.


A GIANT fish flies over the crowd.

AP/AARON FAVILA

The kitefest, now on its 13th year, awarded special prizes to entries numbered 13 in every category. In the elementary flat kite category, lucky 13 was John Louie Santos' Batman kite.

Beautiful kites that wowed the crowd included a three-headed dragon kite (second place in the adult figure kite category, won by Ricardo Cruz); a two-headed dog with butterfly wings (first place in the college geometric kite category, won by Eugene Mallari); and a green-winged dragon with a long tail (crowd favorite in the college geometric division won by Joseph Gueco).

Harry Loses to Wolverine

A Harry Potter kite flew high and strong (looking for the golden snitch perhaps?) but the Wolverine kite of Mark Joseph Juliao flew higher and won first place in the elementary division. Mark's prize includes P4,000, a gift pack and a trophy.

Second place went to Lester David for his "Goldenback", while third place went to John Michael Casipit for his "Woodpecker" kite.

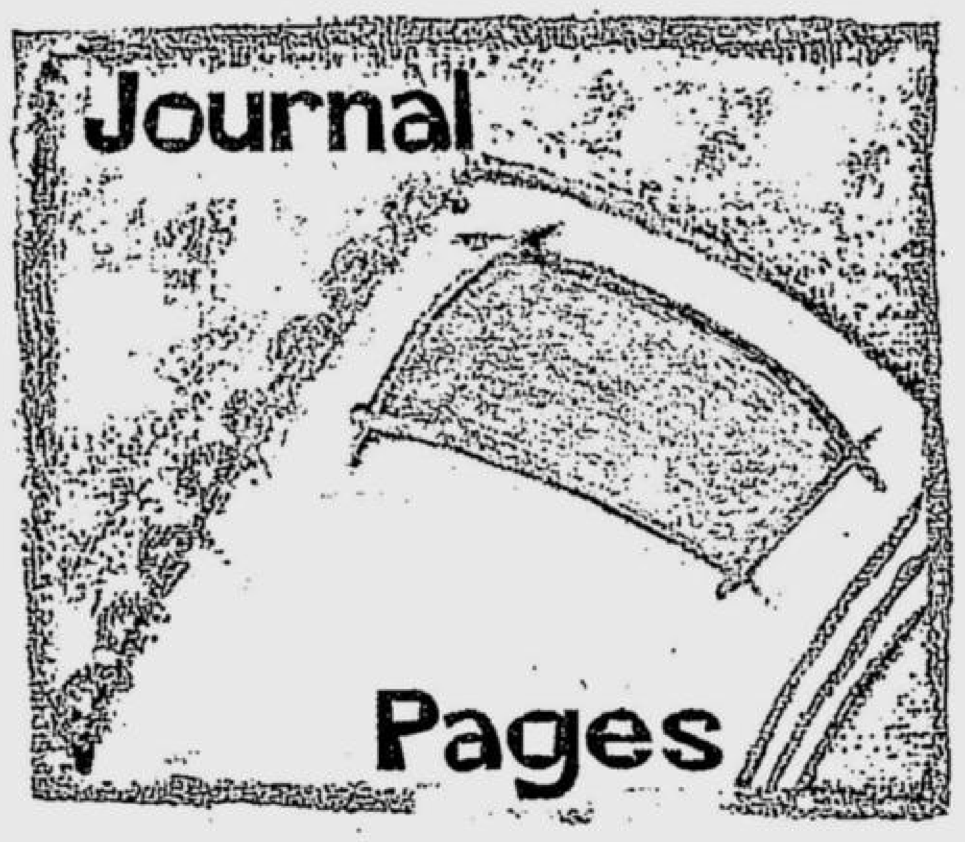
Contestants came from all over the country. Mark Joy Cabigting, 11, flew a nice butterfly kite and came all the way from Pampanga to compete.

Thirteen-year-old Kim Edgardo Santos said the technique in kite-flying is in pulling the kite when the wind slacks or loosening the kite when the wind blows strong.

"Then it will go higher," Kim said.

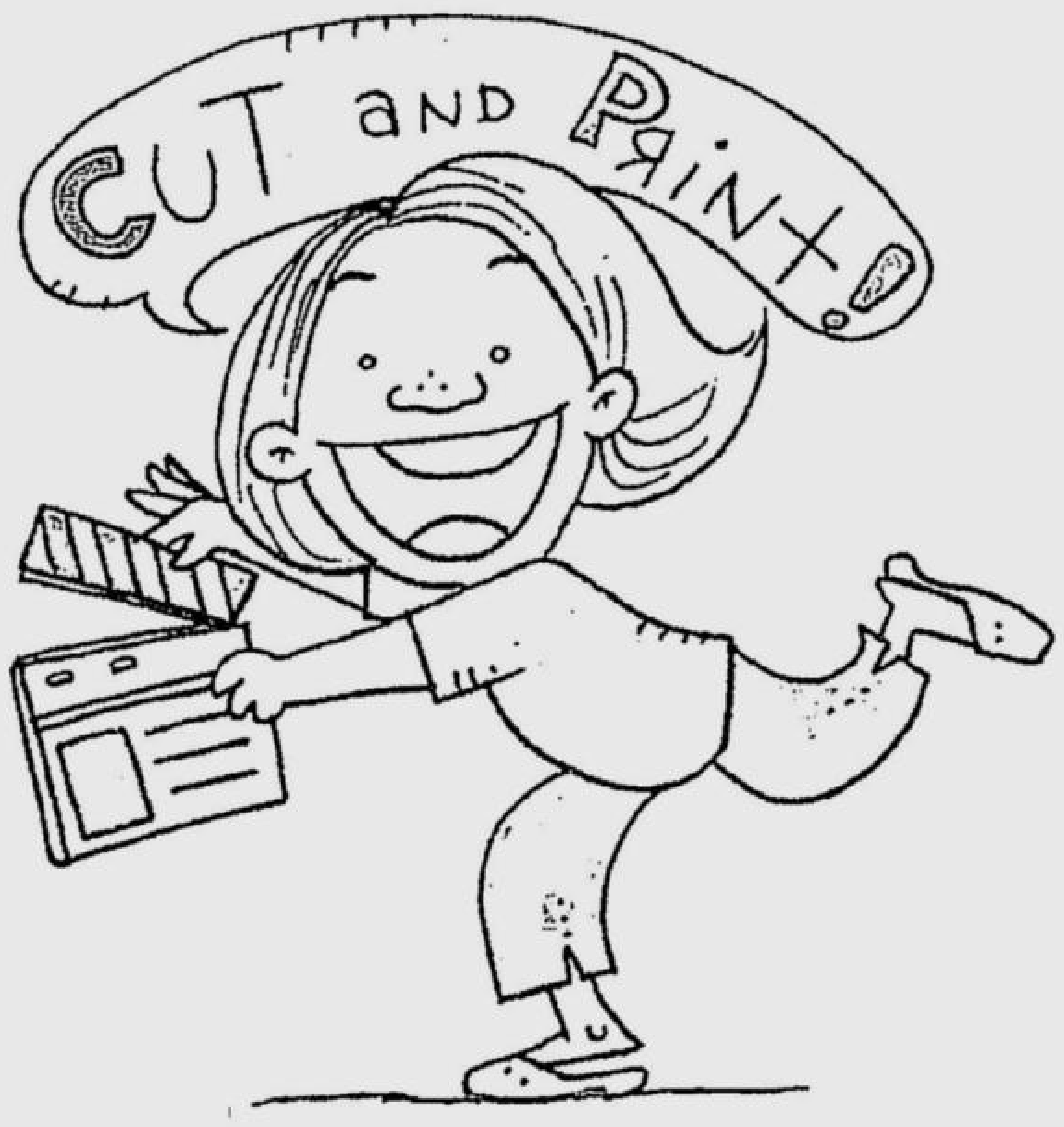
"I wanted to win and share my winnings with my brothers," said 7-year-old Carlo Celespara before the start of the competition.

There were just too many good kites for Carlo to get his wish. Maybe next year he'll have better chances... though for sure, there'll be even bigger and better kites to look forward to.



My Summer of 2002

Hazel Shasta Maria Logan
V-Bandurya
Miriam College Grade School


CUT AND PRINT!

HAVE you heard of "Mga Munting Tinig"? This film is about a young teacher who preferred to teach in a small barrio and touched the lives of the community people with her sincerity and dedication. It was not a box office hit in our country but was popular in different film festivals abroad. It almost made it to the Oscar Awards and very recently, it won the 7 of the 12 awards in the 2002 PMPC Star Awards. The film features Alessandra de Rossi along with several of the country's award-winning actors and actresses. It also features 15 children ages 10-15 selected from 200 who auditioned.

How do I know all of these? I was one of the 15 kids! I feel very honored and proud to be part of another work of one of the country's best directors, Mr. Gil Portes.

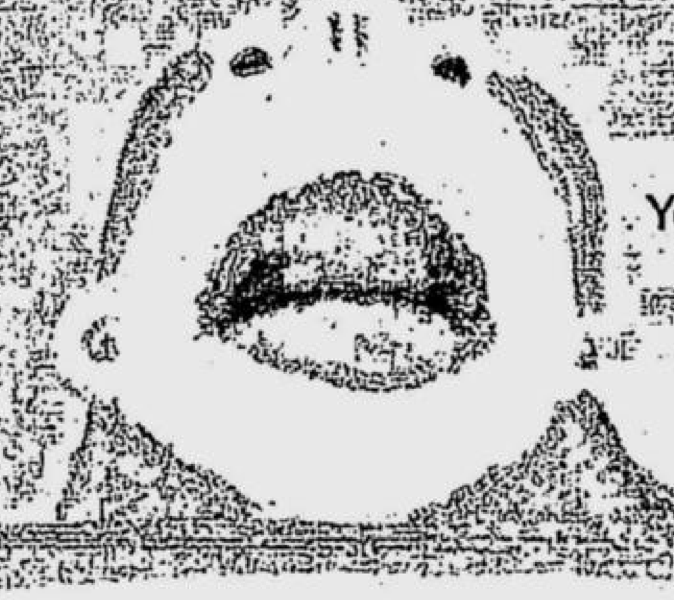
There was a month-long rehearsal for the children in singing and delivery of script at the UP College of Music and LVN Pictures. In April 2002, the shooting took place in different places of Quezon Province, Taytay and Quezon City.

Everybody worked hard to make the movie beautiful. The mommies and the daddies of the 15 children were more than loving and caring. They were very patient and supportive! I had this most memorable experience last summer of 2002 and I will forever cherish it.

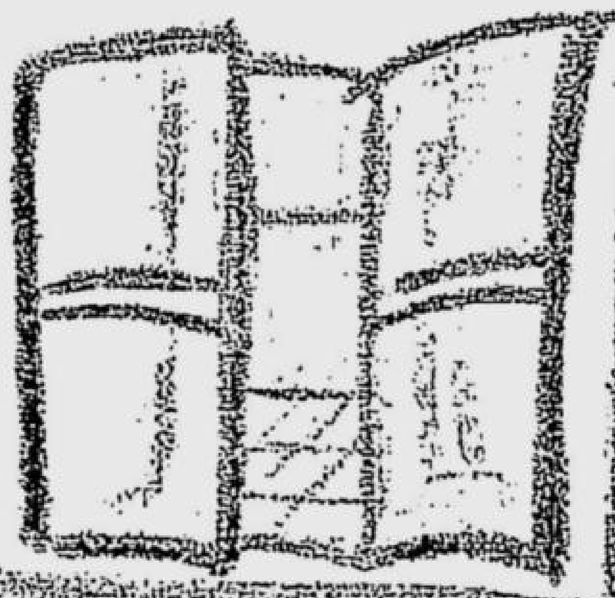
Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now
and send them to JI. Who knows,
you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers



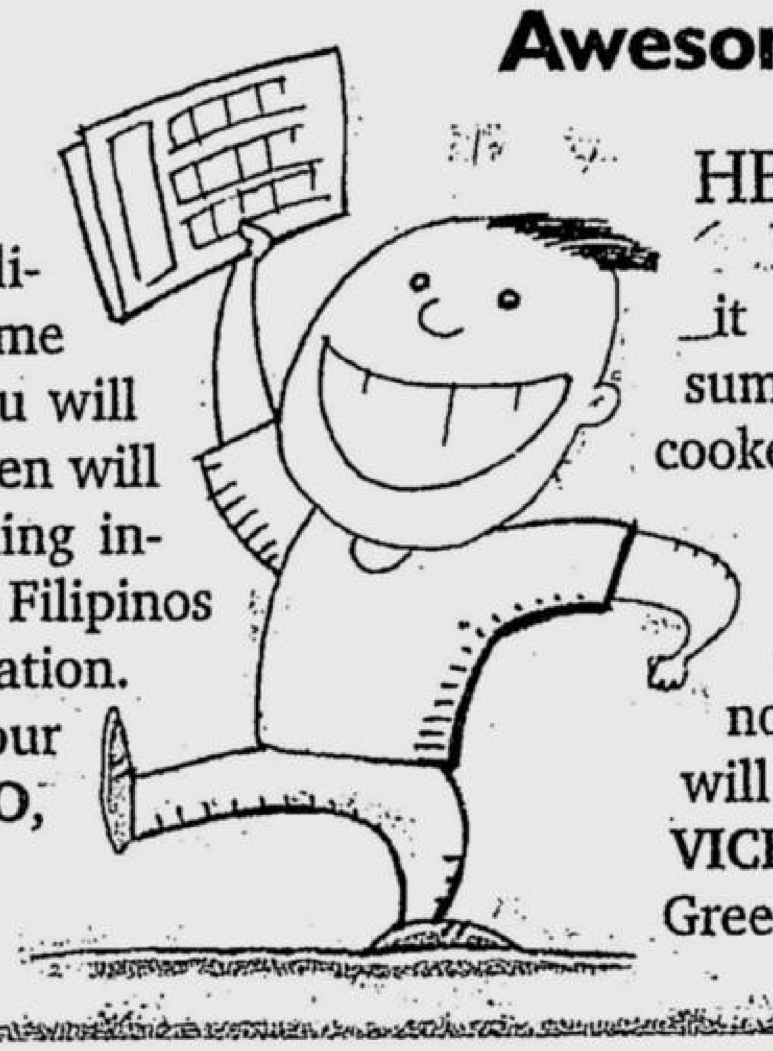
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



We can do it!

DEAR Editor,

Thanks for all the fun and additional knowledge you give everytime I read JUNIOR INQUIRER. I hope you will continue printing JI so that children will be more aware of what's happening inside and outside...I believe that we Filipinos have the ability to improve our nation. If only we had good leaders for our future.—**JAMIE LOU POLLOSO,** Cainta, Rizal



Awesome Summer

HELLO Editor!

I always read JUNIOR INQUIRER and it always makes me happy. This summer, we all had a great time. I cooked food and took swimming lessons. It's so fun! I had the greatest summer in the whole world. But summer's gone and now it's back to school. At least we will have new friends.—**BENJAMIN VICENTE CO,** Grade 5, La Salle Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

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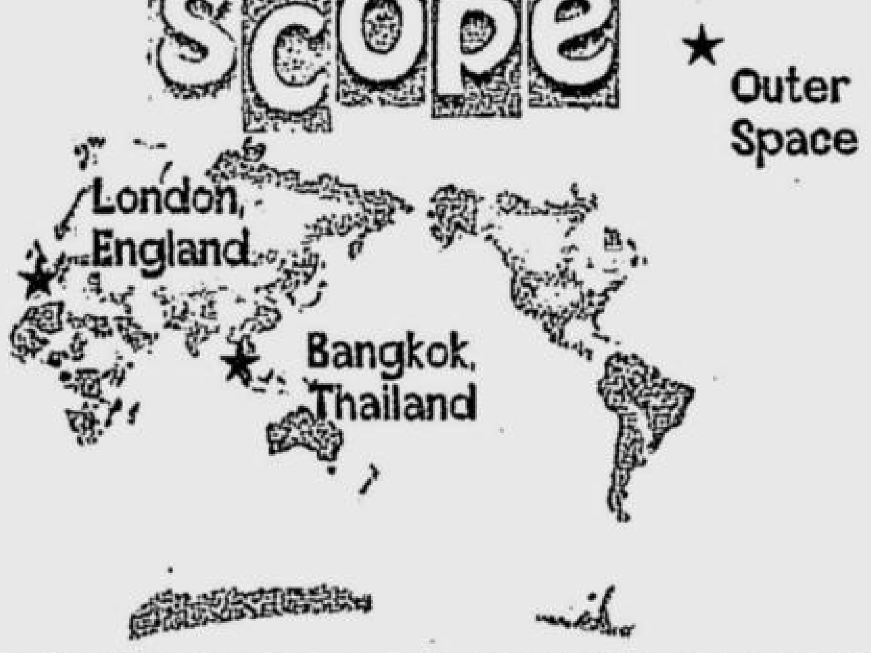
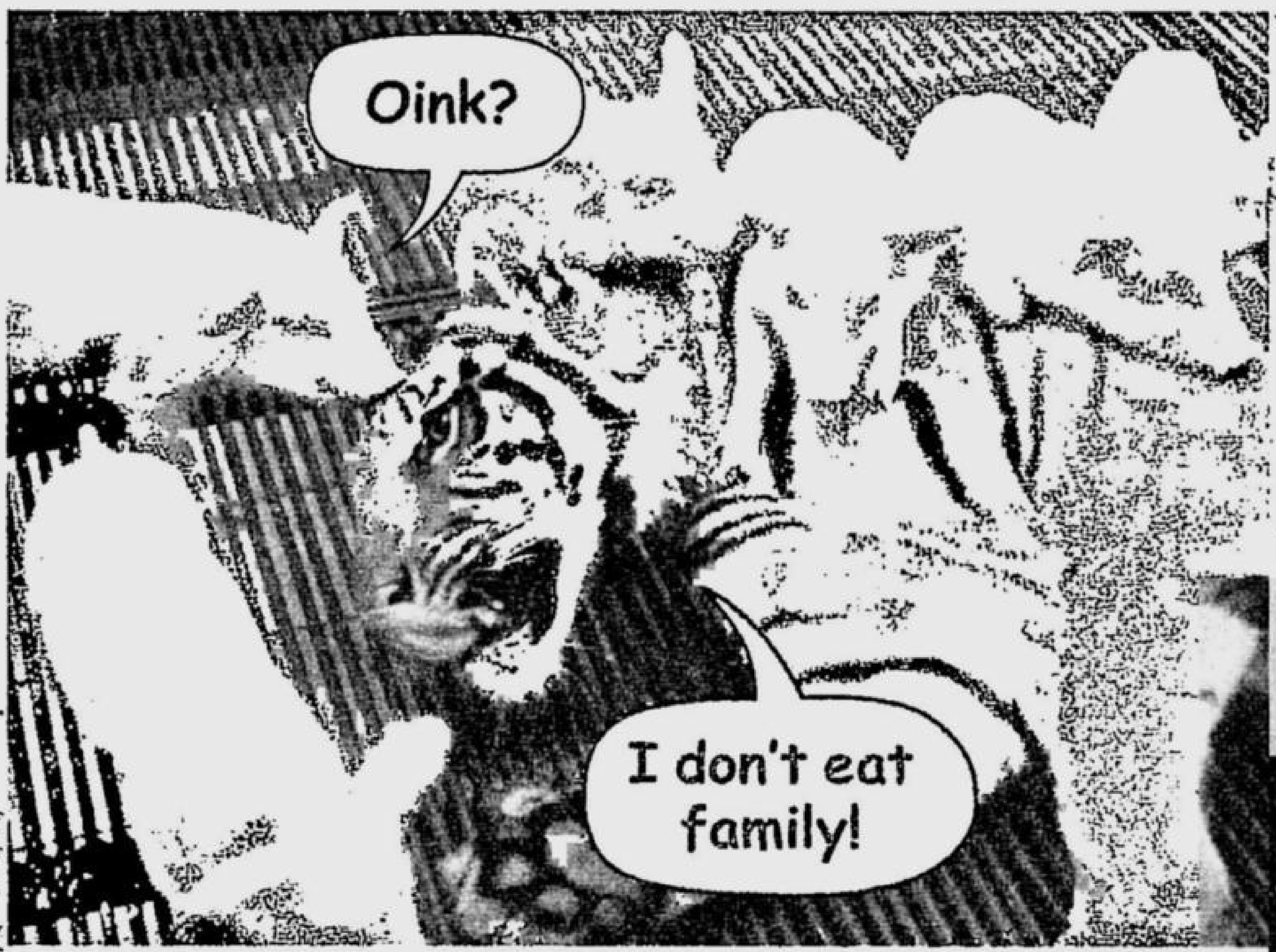
World Scope





No Pork for this Tiger

NO, this tiger isn't getting ready to eat dinner. She's playing with her own kind at a zoo in Chonburi Province, east of Bangkok. At least that's what Sai Mai, the 26-month-old female tiger, thinks. The Royal Bengali tigress was born in captivity and breast-fed by a female pig for four months after her birth. *Reuters*

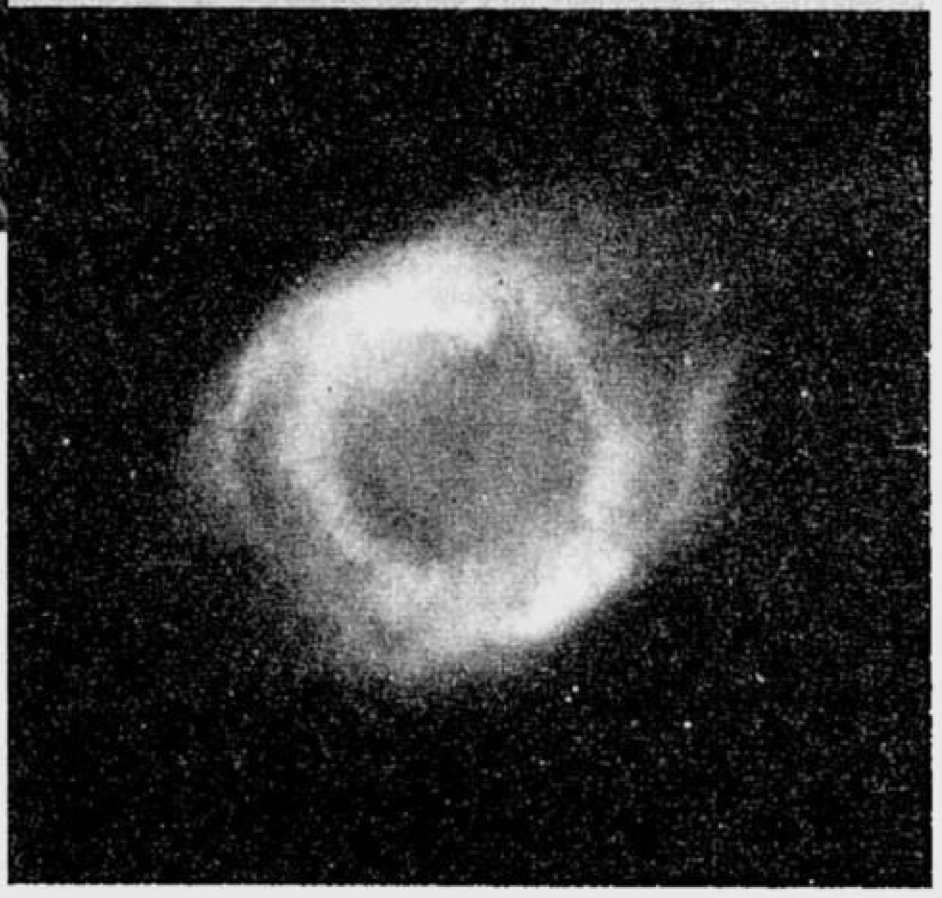
Collect This!

CUTIE Prince William will be featured on a stamp next month.

These will be released in Britain on June 17, four days before the prince's 21st birthday. *AP*

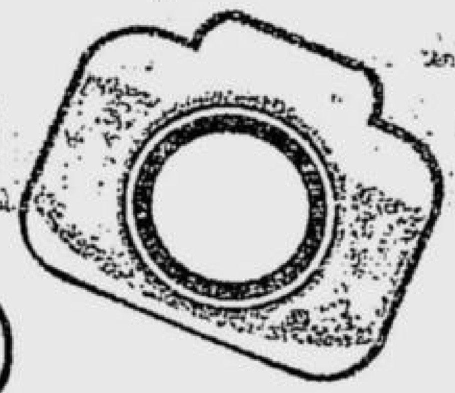
Cool Pix

THIS photo of the coil-shaped Helix Nebula is one of the largest and most detailed celestial images ever made. At 650 light-years away, the Helix is one of the nearest planetary nebulae to Earth. A planetary nebula is the glowing gas around a dying, Sun-like star. *AP Photo/NASA*



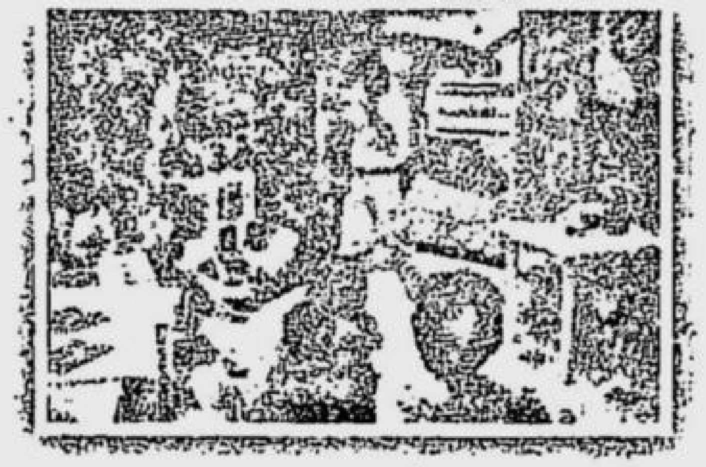
Canon CAMERA • JUNIORINQUIRER

SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP for KIDS

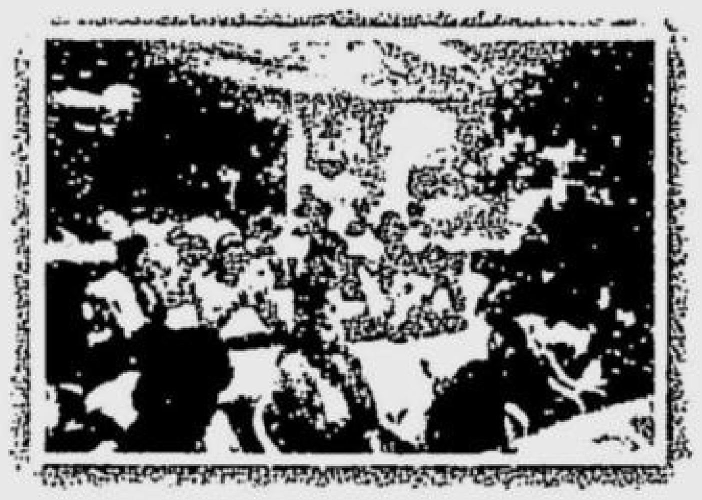


Learning and having fun at the same time!

This was what the children who attended the Summer Photography Workshop experienced last Saturday, May 10. A total of 53 participants attended in the first of a series of sessions that was made possible by Canon Camera and the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Junior Inquirer. Participants came from within Metro Manila and as far as Laguna and nearby provinces.



Last Saturday's activity kicked off the series of Photography Workshops scheduled for three Saturdays that will culminate in a Graduation Day on May 31, 2003. The first day of the Workshop tackled the basics of photography.



The topics included familiarization with the parts of a camera, taking good care of the camera, proper handling of the camera and correct body position and body posture when taking shots. Proper loading of the film was also demonstrated, Before the session ended, the children were required to do hands-on practice in loading films using their own cameras.

Ibarra Deri, a well-known professional portrait photographer and a member of Canon's Magnificent 8, conducted the workshop. He successfully created an environment for learning that made the workshop lively and of course, very educational. His mode of teaching was simple but effective as evident with every participant's ability to grasp the concepts he taught that afternoon. He willingly and encouragingly answered the questions the kids smartly thrown at him. From time to time, he treated the kids with some of his magic tricks that kept their attention burning throughout the 2-hour workshop.

Besides being treated to Ibarra Deri's lecture and magic tricks, the participants were also given gifts courtesy of the sponsors of the Photography Workshop. The sponsors distributed product samples as an additional treat to the participants. The workshop was supported by Kids At Work, Kameraworld, Anchor Milk UHT, Gardenia Bread and Henlin.

Super East Asia Enterprises Inc., the exclusive distributor of Canon Camera in the Philippines, promises a more exciting way of learning photography in the next two Saturdays of the workshop. Another member of the Canon's Magnificent 8, George Tapan is set to take the participants to the next level where they will have a hands-on shooting session. This would definitely put into practice the theories they learned from the first session.

For Inquiries/Details contact:
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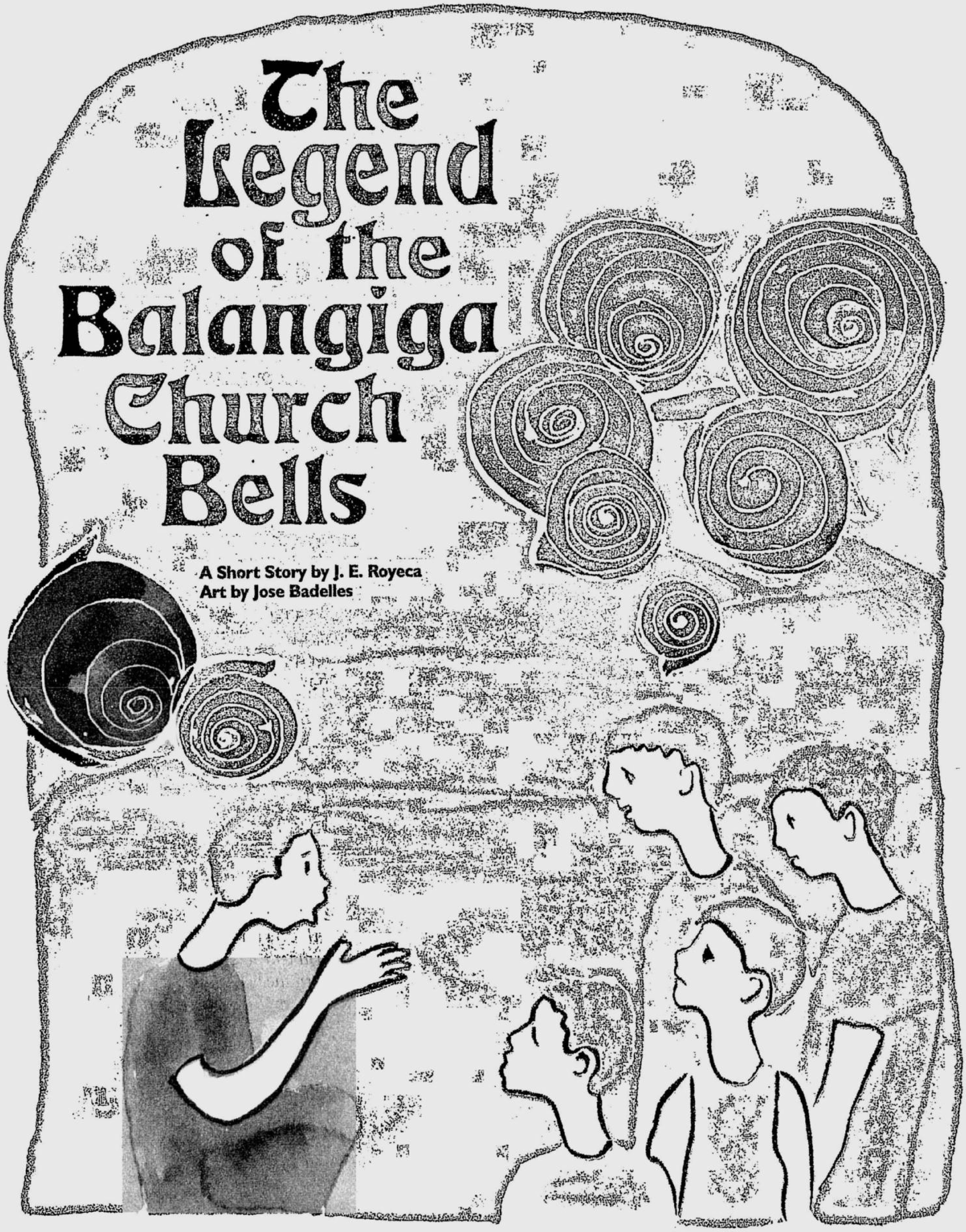
look for: Kyla

The Legend of the Balangiga Church Bells

A Short Story by J. E. Royeca
Art by Jose Badelles



FIVE BOYS were seatec
the woods of Balangiga. It w
11 in the evening. A brigh
above, just as it had the pr
The evenings had been re
even though it was Septem
month. The boys shivered
from Leyte Gulf brushed ag

They had agreed to meet
prove one thing: do the bells
church really turn into gol
at midnight?

That was an ancient leg
end of their town: th
church bells would trans
form from ordinary sol
bronze into shining and ve
beautiful objects. They wou
gleam for several minut
and dazzle anyone who sa
them. Then they returned
their original state.

"It is said that the bells
gold," Pancho said. He had
the legend. "Everyone know
tinued. "Hadn't you hear
fore?"

"We've heard of that,"
"You just beat us in talking

"I'll only believe when I
said.

"All right, this is the time
or not," Pancho said. "Let's
fry.

THE BOYS sneaked quie
church. They were a bit a
the American soldiers in th
the municipal hall were alv
Filipino soldiers who migh
claim the town.

The Americans had al
Balangiga. They conquerec
months before and since
been maltreating its resid
noon, some soldiers dragg
an out into the street bec
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Other American soldiers
only because they wanted
they fired their guns at t
poor peasants to scare th
They also kicked or tri
young men who went b
street corners where they
the hours away.

The boys knew that if th

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Julio insisted.
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ey were mistaken for Filipino revolutionary soldiers, the Americans would surely shoot them. The Philippine-American war was still on. No one ever felt totally safe.

"How will we know it's midnight?" asked Pedro, the smallest boy in the group.

"The bells at the municipal hall clang every midnight, silly!" Crisanto snapped irritably.

"Quiet!" Pancho said. "If we are noisy when we go up the tower stairs, we might wake up the head sexton," he reminded them.

Everyone shushed himself. They huddled together behind some trees just in front of the the church.

"THE HEAD sexton is there?" Pedro whispered, trembling.

"Yes," Pancho answered. "He sleeps in a room near the belfry."

"They say he beats up boys whom he catches climbing the tower," Pedro added.

"So be quiet if you don't want us to get caught," Pancho explained.

They entered one of the church doors. Pedro kept hesitating.

"I won't go," Pedro said.

But his friends pushed and dragged him with them. The church was not totally dark inside. The altar, the chairs in the nave, and the saints' wooden images could easily be seen. Moonlight pierced through the glass windows.

Though they were very careful, Pedro managed to knock one big metal candleholder to the floor. The sound it made echoed all over inside the church. Then there was a shout from one of the doors near the belfry.

"Who's there?" a harsh voice boomed. It was the sullen head sexton, rushing from his room with a huge torch.

The boys, who had begun to mount the tower stairs, could not contain themselves. They scrambled back to the door where they entered and fled for their lives.

"Who's there?" the head sexton was shouting harsher. "If I catch you, savages!"

The boys managed to escape. They kept running until they were back in the woods. Luckily, the Americans soldiers in the barracks did not notice them while they dashed by.

"If you were only more careful," Julio scolded Pedro who was on the verge of tears.

"Tomorrow night, let's try it again," Pancho told them, patting the shoulder of the humiliated Pedro, trying to brighten him up.

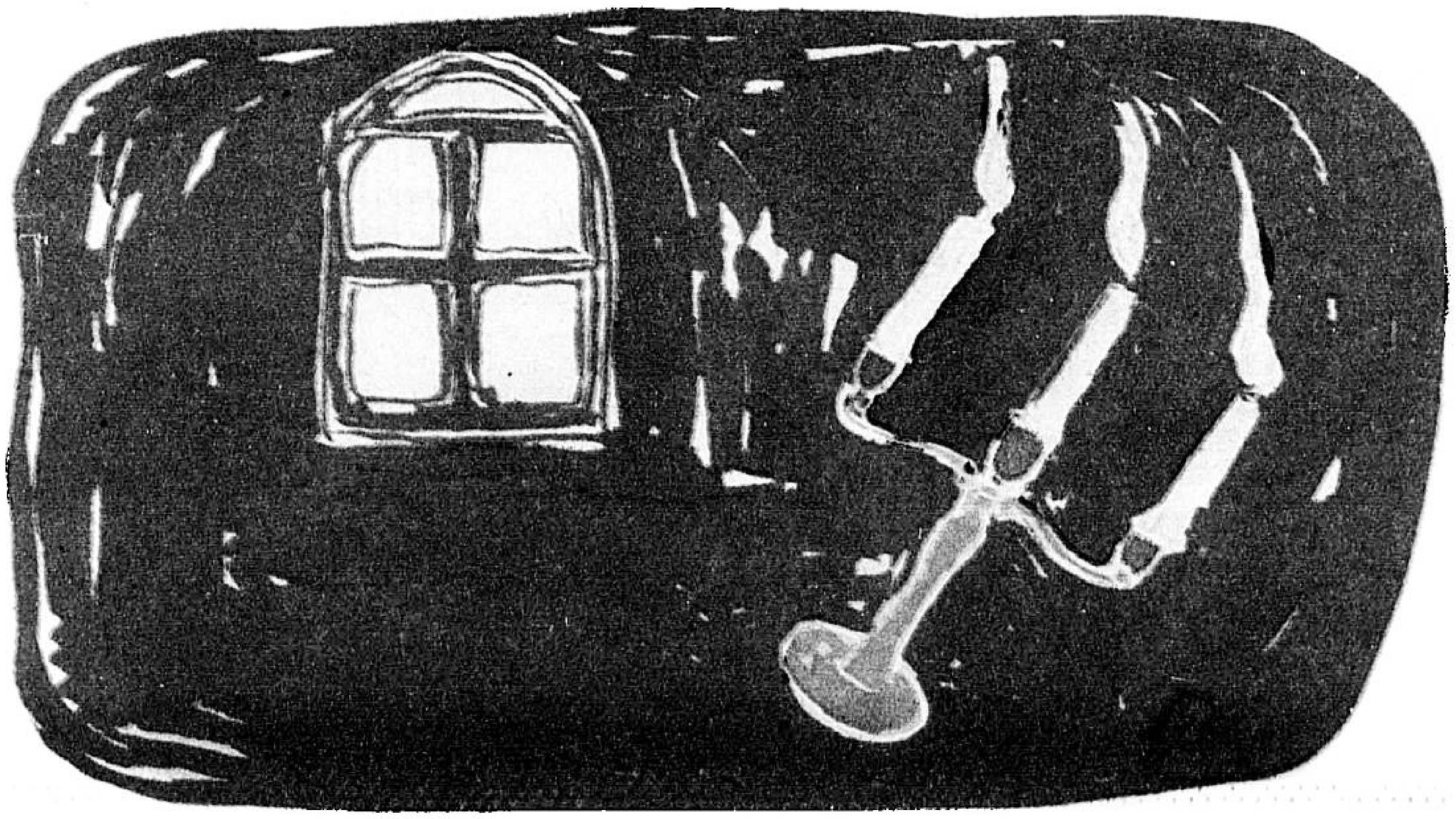
"Yes," Benito agreed. "We were almost there."

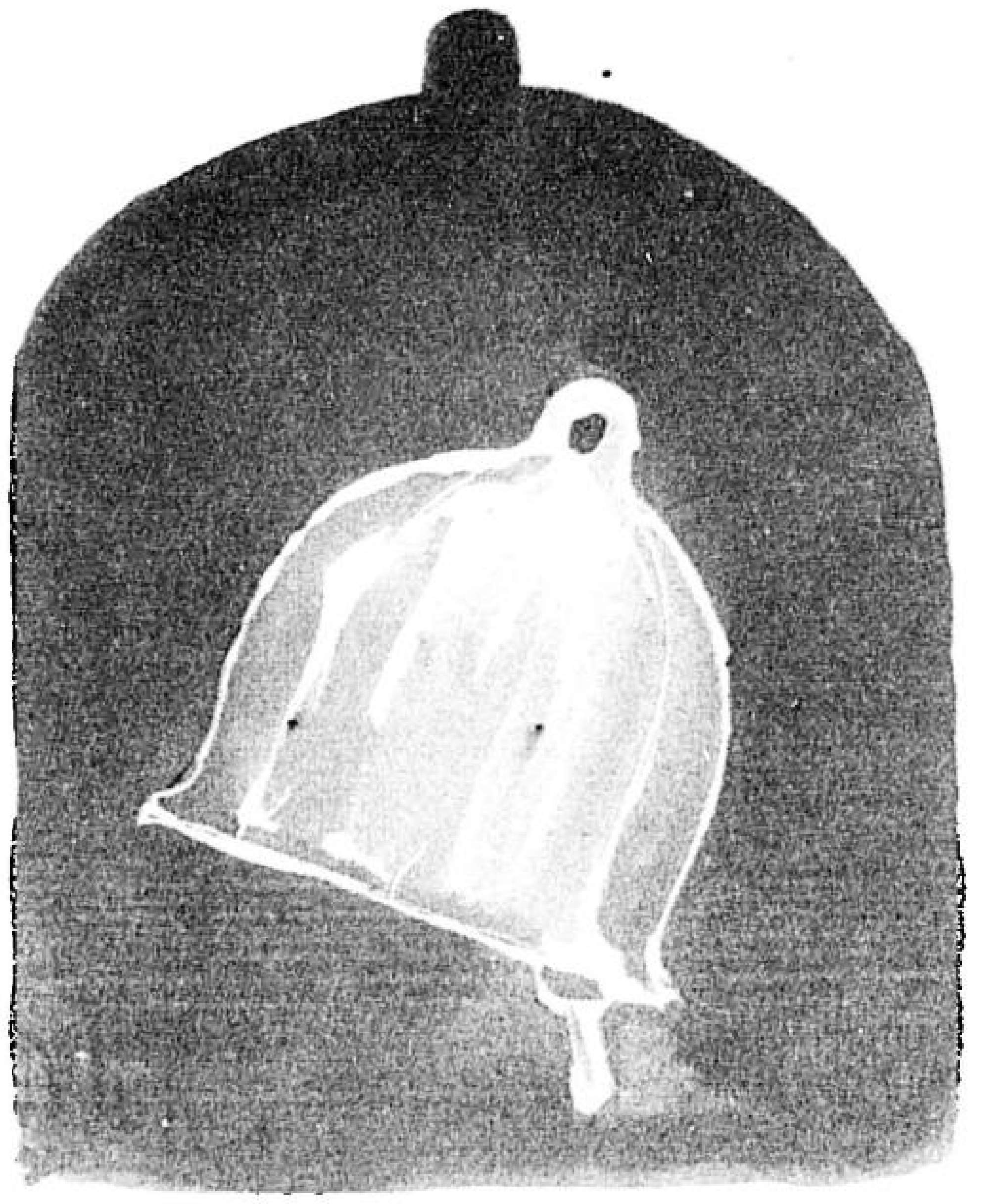
"Tomorrow again, is it clear?" Pancho wanted to make it sure.

"Yes!" everyone exclaimed, except Pedro.

"Pedro?" Pancho looked at him straight in the eyes.

Pedro nodded and said a soft "yes". Tomorrow night, at midnight, they hoped they would finally know the truth about the legend of the Balangiga Church bells.





BUT they would not be able to do that because the following day, September 28, 1901, Saturday, fighting broke out in Balangiga. Filipino revolutionary fighters attacked the Americans. In retaliation, American Brig. Gen. Jacob Smith ordered his troops to reduce Samar into a "howling wilderness." The merciless American soldiers ravaged the town of Balangiga and many other towns in Samar. They shot men, women, and children to death. In Balangiga, the Americans stole the town's most cherished heritage, the Balangiga church bells, and took them home as a trophy.

Pancho and his friends were able to flee with their families from the Americans. They survived the slaughter, but they would no longer be able to know whether the ancient legend of the Balangiga Church bells was true or not.

Editor's Note: *Today, two of the famed Balangiga bells are in Cheyenne, Wyoming and a third is with the 2nd Infantry Division, 9th US Infantry Regiment in Korea. Our government has repeatedly asked the US to return the bells. Some are hoping US President George W. Bush will bring the bells with him if his state visit to the Philippines pushes through in October. Then, perhaps the ancestors of the boys in this story will finally find out if the legend is true or not.*

J.E. *loves to write historical fiction for kids.*

Jose*, 38, is a children's writer, illustrator, painter and educator. He is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK). Jose thinks war is stupid.*

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Meticulous Michael

Michael, 13, stands tall among his peers through hard work and diligence

By Eline Santos

MICHAEL Contreras, or Ickey to family and friends, is swimmer and student leader *par excellence*. Last school year he was a third honor seventh-grader at the Ateneo de Manila University, captain of the swim team and internal vice president of the student council.

"Sometimes I have to sacrifice being with my friends and going out just to train and study."

As team captain, Ickey tries to set a good example by never missing a competition. He also motivates his teammates, especially the rookies.

Ickey says that one needs "hard work, patience, and determination. Determination is what makes world-class athletes."

He can finish a 50-meter lap in 31 seconds with his favorite stroke, the butterfly.

"Do you know it takes a month of training just to increase your speed by a millisecond?" asks his proud mom.

"My mom forced me to learn," says Ickey who was enrolled in swimming class before he entered fourth grade. He finished the basic program in three days, and before the summer was over he was training competitively.

From Pool to Court

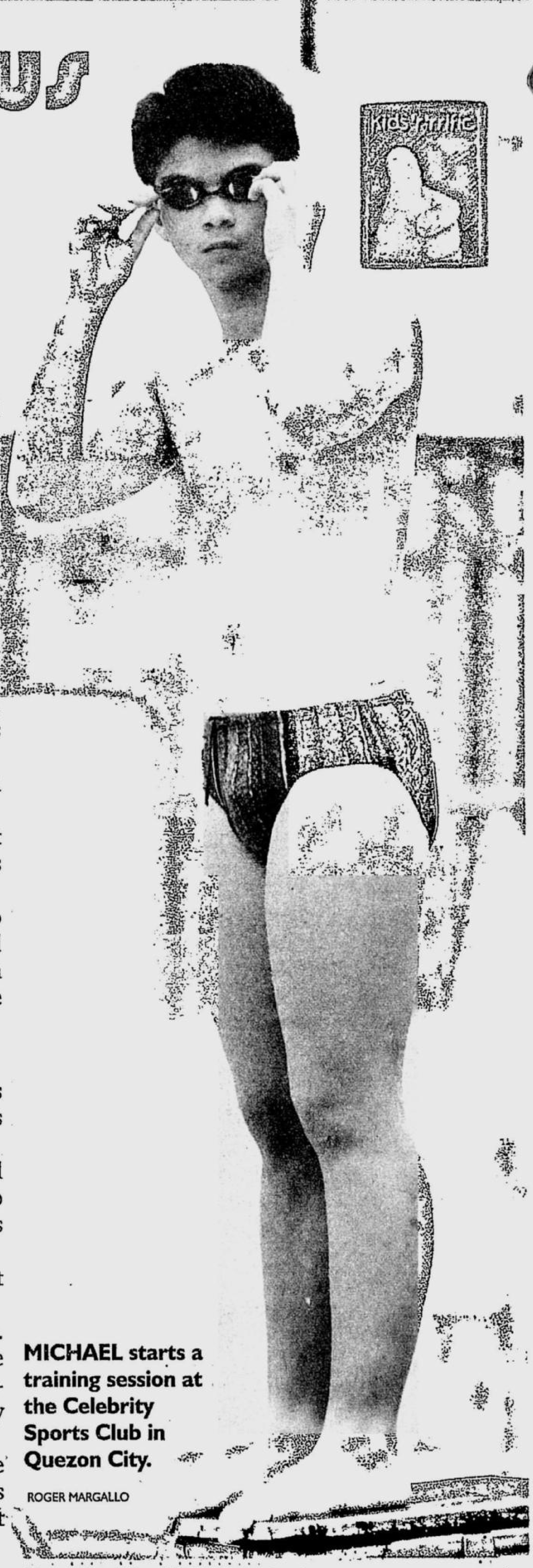
Now standing tall at 5'8", 13-year-old Ickey is looking to conquer the world of basketball as well.

"The transition is hard because swimming and basketball are so different. You're more prone to cramps and injuries—unlike in swimming, injuries are very rare."

The challenge doesn't stop him however. "I just want to be a basketball varsity player now."

"In high school they allow dual varsity," he says. "I expect high school to be more difficult, more challenging. I hope to become a part of the basketball varsity and also be a part of swimming varsity again."

As a graduation message, Ickey would just like to tell his batchmates, "Thanks for all the laughs we had. Sorry for all the people I hurt. I hope that you'll be my classmates again in high school."



MICHAEL starts a training session at the Celebrity Sports Club in Quezon City.

ROGER MARGALLO

R U 'RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:____________________
____

Age: __________________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
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She/he lives at ________________
____
____

and studies at _________________
____

Her/his contact number is: ______
____

Sender's Name: ________________
____

Sender's Age & School:__________
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Sender's Address: ______________
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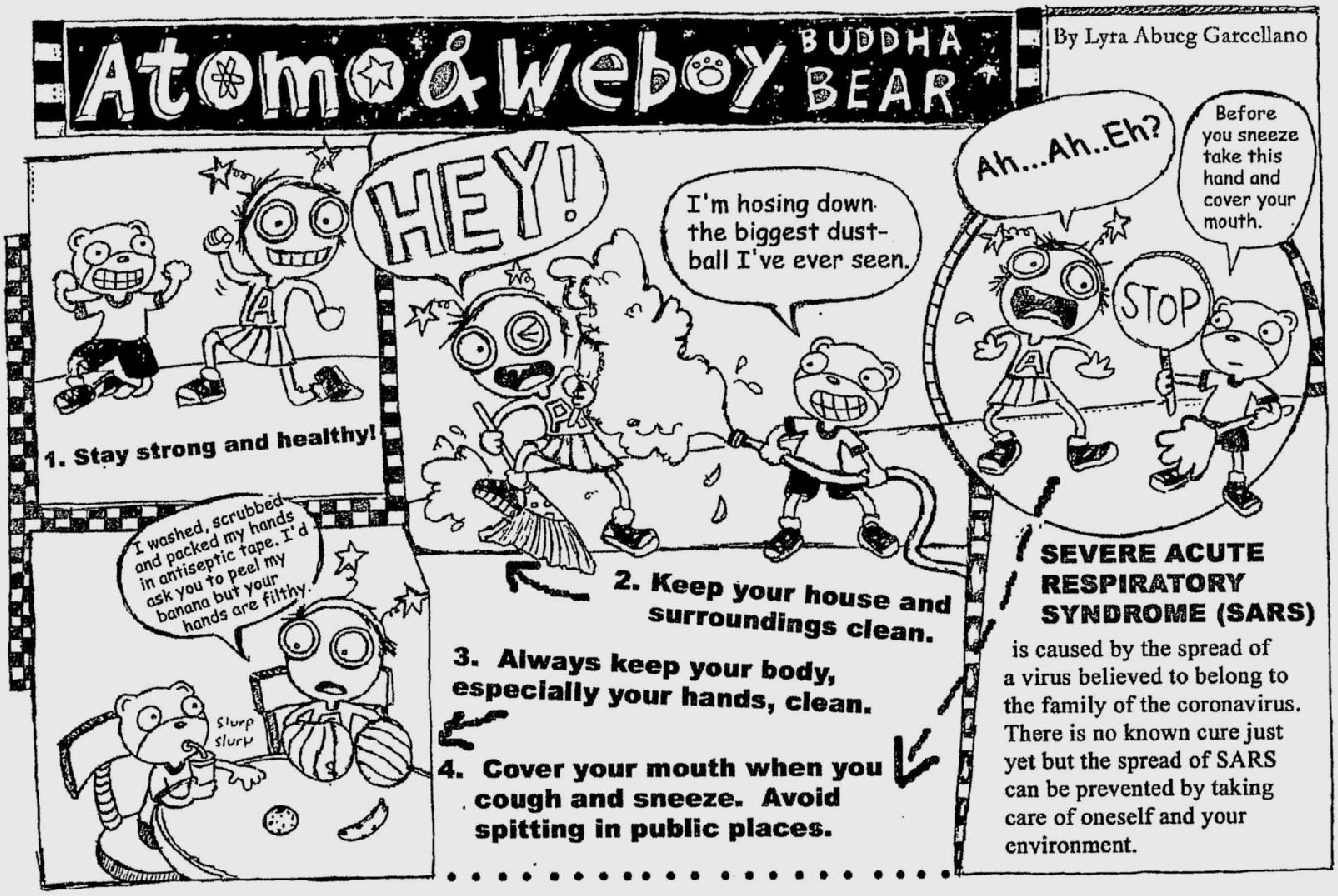
Atomo & Weboy Buddha Bear

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano


HEY!
I'm hosing down the biggest dust-ball I've ever seen.
Ah...Ah..Eh?
Before you sneeze take this hand and cover your mouth.
STOP
I washed, scrubbed and packed my hands in antiseptic tape. I'd ask you to peel my banana but your hands are filthy.
slurp slurp

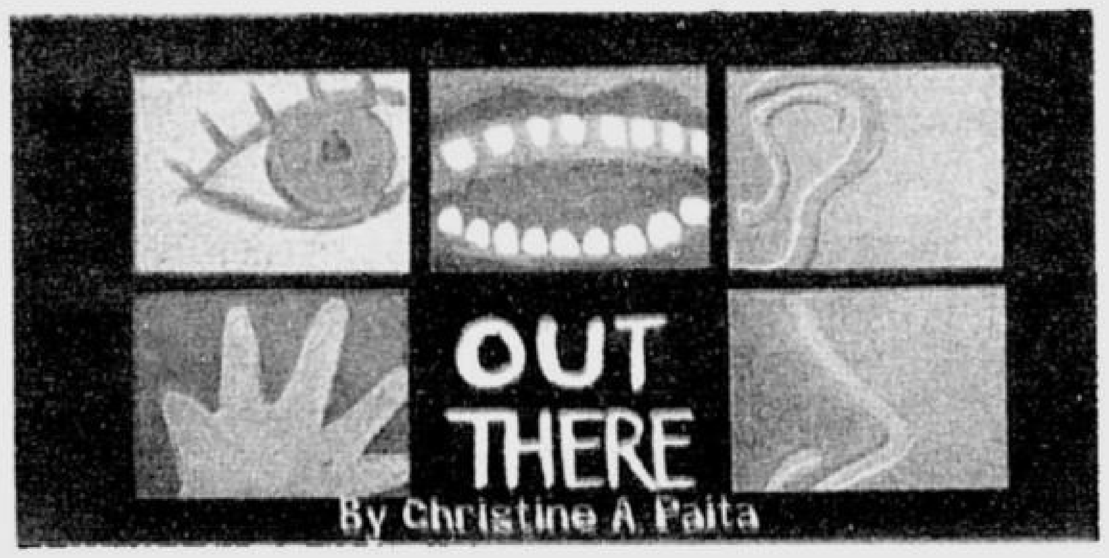
1. Stay strong and healthy!

2. Keep your house and surroundings clean.

3. Always keep your body, especially your hands, clean.

4. Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze. Avoid spitting in public places.

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS) is caused by the spread of a virus believed to belong to the family of the coronavirus. There is no known cure just yet but the spread of SARS can be prevented by taking care of oneself and your environment.



OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Workshop

THEATER ACTING. Join Dulaang Balintataw's **stage and screen acting workshops** every Saturday and Sunday of May from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1-5 p.m. at the Tanghalang Silayan, Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center. For more info, call 3373-7583 or 0918-7273356.

Contest

COLOR AND WIN. Students ages 7 to 12 may join Faber-Castell's **"We are a Happy Family" art contest**. The first-prize winner will receive P30,000, second-prize winner P20,000, and the third-prize winner gets P10,000. Promo runs until June 20. Deadline is on June 20 as well. For more info, call the Faber-Castell office at 361-7391 to 92.

Stuff

REVIEWING HISTORY. Enrich your knowledge of Philippine history with **"Historycal Links,"** a single-player infogame that quizzes the player on the who, what, and where of Philippine history. Available at museum gift shops and bookstores. Call Fundacion Santiago at 631-0715 for details.

Cable Pick

KIDS NEXT DOOR. Meet a new batch of adventurous kids! Called **The Kids Next Door,** this team of five 10-year-olds has one mission: to free children from the rule of tyrannical adults. The kids have taken numbers instead of names and has a patented "2 x 4 Technology." Sound interesting? Join the KND every Friday at 5:30 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

"SLAM!" TV. "SLAM!" is Nickelodeon's latest program that features two new action-filled cartoons. Catch "Invader Zim" and "Speed Racer X" on "SLAM!" every Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

Comic Book

CARTOON NETWORK
WANTED
KIDS the NEXT DOOR
for crimes against ADULTHOOD
codename: kids next door

FOR BEYBLADE ENTHUSIASTS! Beyblade Film Comics is out! Enter the world of spinning tops and special powers. Don't miss the first volume of this comic book series. Now available in magazine stands and bookstores.

SHIRLEY'S PETS

by robert magnuson

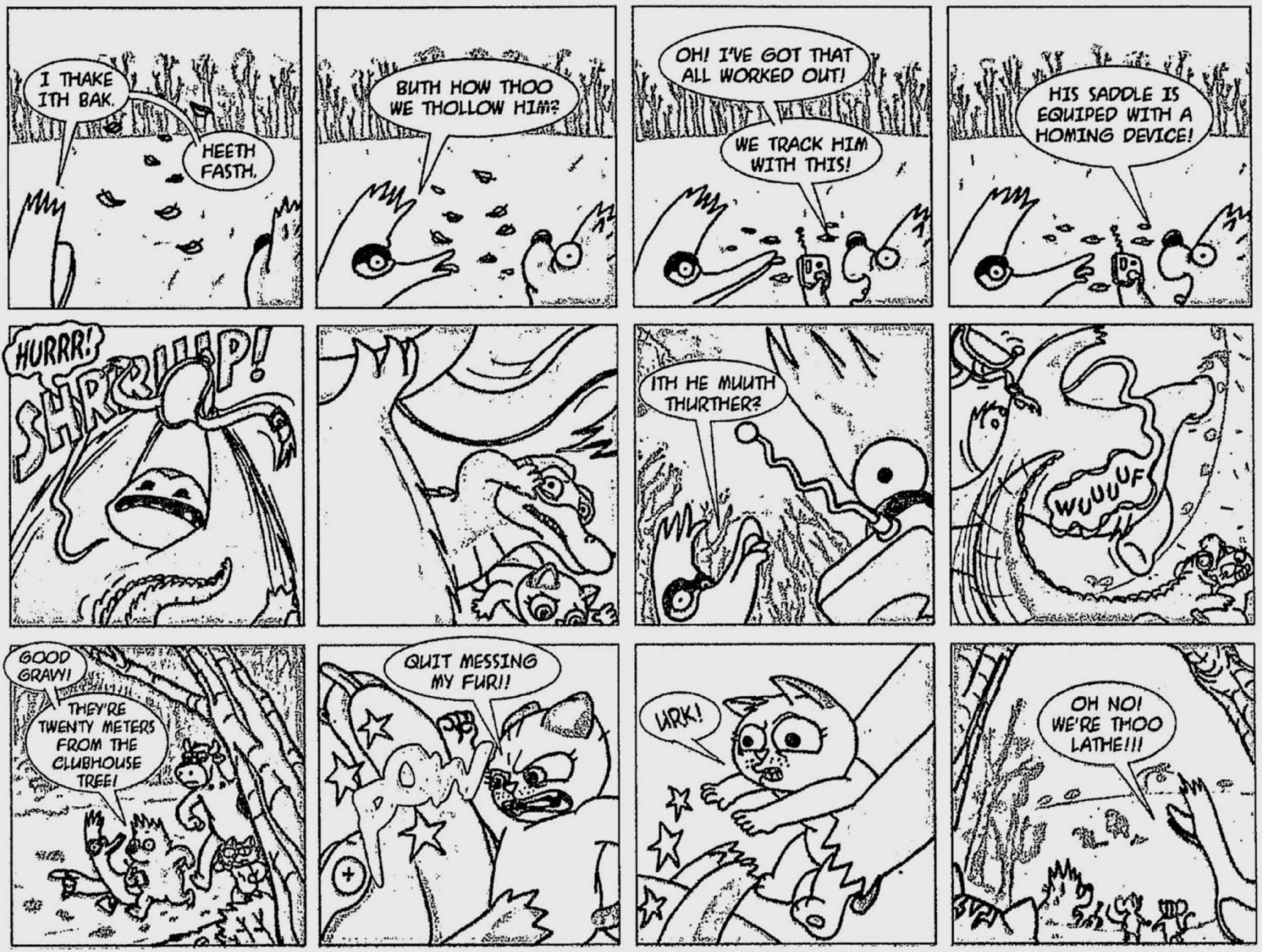
Previously in Shirley's Pets Static Cat's Entry:

Mystery Duck has gotten us into trouble again. His childhood rival has come to take over our clubhouse. (I'm not sure why Pancho wants the clubhouse tree this desperately. I'm sure it's the duck's fault.)

Anyway, because of our "fearless" leader's actions:

a) Our rings were stolen,
b) Shirley has seen us, and
c) Some monster has run off with Little John's vain sister.

Now Pancho has sent his alligator to find the monster.


I THAKE ITH BAK.
HEETH FASTH.
BUTH HOW THOO WE THOLLOW HIM?
OH! I'VE GOT THAT ALL WORKED OUT!
WE TRACK HIM WITH THIS!
HIS SADDLE IS EQUIPED WITH A HOMING DEVICE!
HURRR!
SHRRUUP!
ITH HE MUUTH THURTHER?
WUUUUF
GOOD GRAVY!
THEY'RE TWENTY METERS FROM THE CLUBHOUSE TREE!
QUIT MESSING MY FUR!!
URK!
OH NO! WE'RE THOO LATHE!!!

visit us: robertmagnuson.port5.com or email: seintmartin@yahoo.com Copyright © 2003 Robert Gunnar Magnuson

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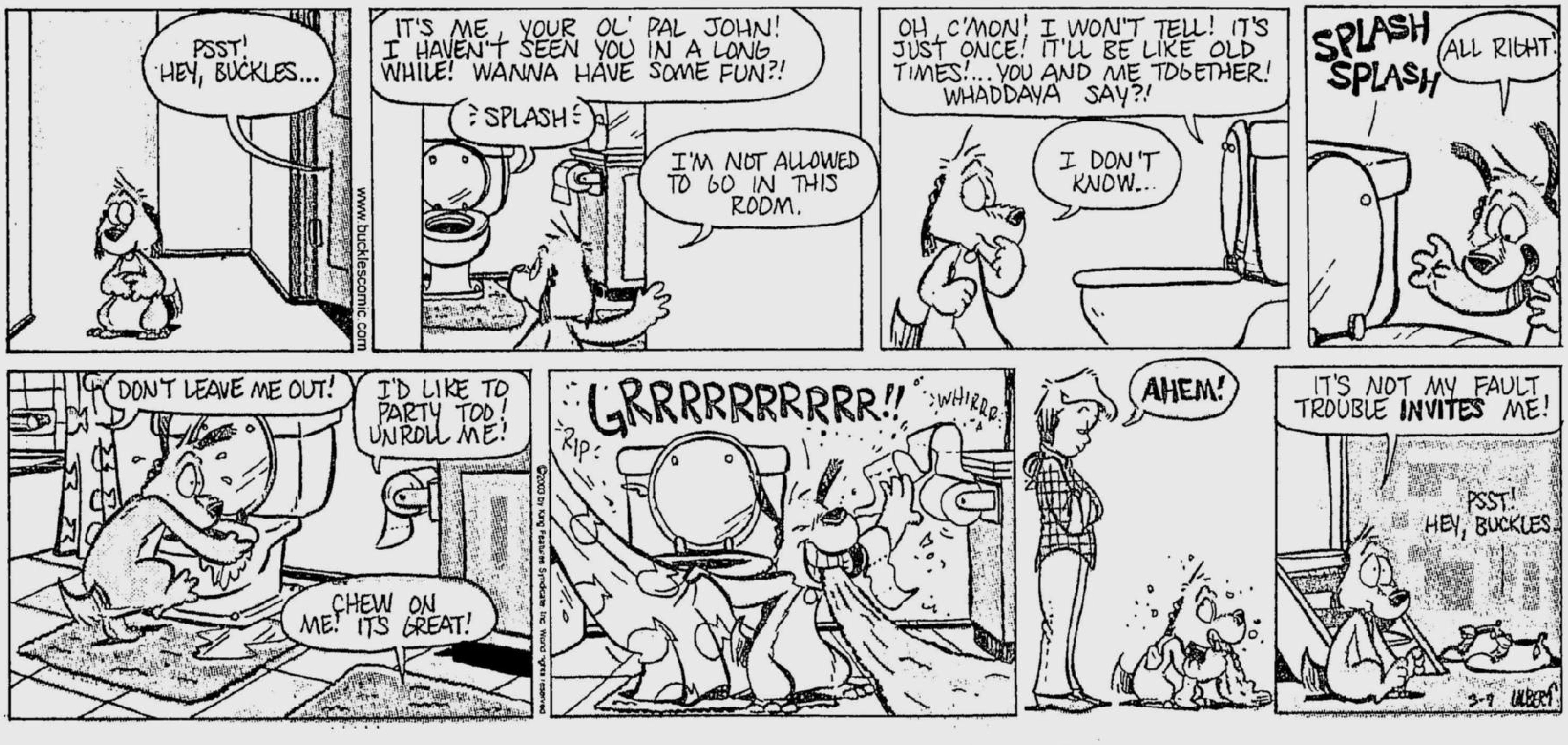
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


PSST! HEY, BUCKLES...
www.bucklescomic.com
IT'S ME, YOUR OL' PAL JOHN! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A LONG WHILE! WANNA HAVE SOME FUN?!
SPLASH
I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO IN THIS ROOM.
OH, C'MON! I WON'T TELL! IT'S JUST ONCE! IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES!... YOU AND ME TOGETHER! WHADDAYA SAY?!
I DON'T KNOW...
SPLASH SPLASH
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T LEAVE ME OUT!
I'D LIKE TO PARTY TOO! UNROLL ME!
CHEW ON ME! ITS GREAT!
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GRRRRRRRRRR!!
RIP
WHIRRR
AHEM!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT TROUBLE INVITES ME!
PSST! HEY, BUCKLES
3-9 GILBERT

BEST COPY AVAILABLE